RAJARSHI SHAHU CHHATRAPATI PAPERS

Volume : I, 1884- 1894

(Adoption to Installation)

Edited by

Late Dr. A. G. Pawar

Reprint brought out by

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KOLHAPUR-416 004.
(INDIA)

No. 164

The Maharaja was being pressed by the Government to proceed to England for further education. The Maharaja saw Lord Harris the Governor at Mahabaleshwar and argued out his case. The Governor, it appears, emphasised upon four specific points as to why the Maharaja should accept Government advice and asked the Maharaja to write to him about the same. In this letter to Lord Harris the Maharaja most cogently and forcefully deals with those points.

Dharwar,
7 July 1892

My dear Lord Harris,

I have already spoken to you about my not going to England for some years. I now, as you requested, give my views about those points only which Your Excellency mentioned to me at Mahabaleshwar. On account of there being cholera at Dharwar, I went to Kolhapur for a short time in June and there I consulted with the Ranis about those points and now what I am going to write is approved of by them.

About the first point, namely that I shall be next year fit to benefit myself by the visit. I confess that I shall be somewhat fit; but I am of opinion, that if I wait for a time, I shall be more benefitted, because as I get more experience, my knowledge will increase. I intend to keep up my knowledge of English. I am very fond of shikar and I think I will ..... and it is not my desire to leave off reading altogether. I wish to increase the knowledge which has been given to me by Mr. Fraser. Besides this, by spending the same amount of money later on, I will be more benefitted than now; then why should I make haste.

About the second point, namely that I will find it difficult to go away from my family. I have got great admiration for the civilization of England, and that admiration will increase with my age. After enjoying some worldly happiness. I do not think I shall then appreciate less advantages to be got from the trip. Besides, my wife perhaps will like to go to England with me and then we will go together and in that case she would be a persuasion to me rather than an obstacle.

About the third point, namely my people will want me, and my relations will also come in my way. I am sure that the people will not then be so unwilling to see me go for a time, because by that time I will have got some children, and they will make my absence forgotten. They will get a native

rule for a time for which they have been waiting for a very long time. The history of Kolhapur has been unfortunate for three generations and so the people are very afraid. But when I rule for a time their fear will pass off and they will not mind my going. I will, at that time hand over the charge to capable men; and I hope Government will Superintenterid them. There will be no fear about my elders permiting me to go after some years. Because they say they will allow me to go, and in my absence they will pass the time in taking care of my children. The Ranis say that if I go now, my character will perhaps be spoilt, because my character is not as yet settled, and that in a Continent like Europe there are may tempatations.

About the fourth point, Mr. Fraser will not be able to accompany me. Then I say that I should get more pleasure, if I had a sympathetic gentleman like Mr. Fraser with me. When I go to England and I am sure that when I request Govenment to lend me his services, they will not say no. But if they refuse, I dare say I shall find some other gentleman to accompany me. When my father went to England, Col. Gordon's services were given to him. I am highly obliged to Your Lordship for giving me opportunities of telling my reasons for not going next year to England. I may add that Mr. Fraser has shown me a report by Mo Conaghy about my health in which he advises a seavoyage; but there is no need to decide about this yet.

I am,
Your Lordship's sincere friend,
Sd/-
Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 197

Shahu Chhatrapati's reply to the Governor.

Kolhapur
10th February, 1894

My dear Lord Harris,

I am highly obliged to you for the friendly advice in Your Excellency's kind letter of the 1st instant, and I shall be most happy to carry out the kind suggestion you have made. I have been thinking about the distribution of State work ever since I knew that I should be installed this year, for I know that on distribution will depend to a great extent the success of the administration.

It seems to me that the present form of Council has been working very well for a long time, so I have decided to continue it for the present. Changes may be required hereafter but I shall not make any until I have gained experience in administration for myself. One change in the distribution of the Council's work will be necessary now that the members will be subordinate to me, and I will at once start considering new rules, taking the advice of the Political Agent and others as Your Excellency has suggested, and I hope we have them ready before April.

I remain,
Your Excellency
Yours sincerely,
Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 233

This is the Maharaja's very first proclamation issued immediately after his installation on the gadi. He said : "This is to declare to all the peoples of my State my minority being over and I being entrusted with full powers of administration as from today, the 2nd April 1894, the Council of Administration that was functioning during my minority has come to an end. My earnest wish is that all my subjects should be happy and contented, that their welfare should be always increasing, and that our State should be always prospering. I trust that all the feudatories, relative, Sardars, Manakaris, Inamdars, workers, merchants and all other subjects would whole-heartedly and loyally render their help in fulfilling our objective, I pray God that my rule may be long and fruitful.

शिक्का

श्रीमन्महाराज छत्रपती सरकार करवीर

करवीर सरकारचे ग्याझिट

वर्ष ७) (अंक १३)

सोमवार, तारीख २ माहे एप्रिल सन १८९४.

भाग १

जा ही र ना मा

स्वतिश्री राज्याभिषेक शके २२० विजयनाम संवत्सरे

फाल्गुन वद्य ११ इंदुवासुरे क्षत्रियकुलावतंस श्रीराजा

शाहू छत्रपती स्वामी यांजकडून-

ह्या जाहीरनाम्याच्या द्वारे कोल्हापूर इलाख्यांतील आमच्या तमाम प्रजाजनांस जाहीर करण्यांत येते की, आजपर्यन्त आम्हीं अल्पवयीं असल्या कारणानें कोल्हापूर संस्थांनचा राज्य कारभार ''कौन्सिल ऑफ आड्मिनिस्ट्रेशन'' यांच्या हातून चालविण्यांत येत होता, परंतु आम्ही आता प्रौढावस्थेत आल्या कारणानें आज रोजी त्यांची कारकीर्द संपून आमच्या राज्याचा पूर्ण अखत्यार आमच्या हाती आला आहे, व त्याप्रमाणे आम्ही आज तारीख दोन माहे एप्रिल इसवी सन एक हजार आठशे चौऱ्याण्णव पासून तो चालविण्यास सुरुवात केली आहे.

आमची सर्व प्रजा सतत तृप्त राहून सुखी असावी, तिचे कल्याणाची सतत वृद्धि व्हावी, व आमचे संस्थानची हरएक प्रकारे सदोदित भरभराट होत जावी, अशी आमची उत्कट इच्छा आहे. हा आमचा हेतू परिपूर्ण करण्यास आमच्या पदरचे सर्व लहान थोर जाहागीरदार, आप्त, सरदार, मानकरी,

इनामदार, कामगार, व्यापारी आदिकरून तमाम प्रजाजन शुद्ध अंत:करणापासून मोठ्या राजनिष्ठेने आम्हांस सहाय्य करतील अशी आमची पूर्ण उमेद आहे, ही आमची कारकीर्द दीर्घ कालपर्यन्त चालवून सफल करावी अशी मी त्या जगन्नियंत्या परमात्याची एक भावे प्रार्थना करितो.

कोल्हापूर नवीनराजवाडा,
तारीख २ एप्रिल १८९४.

RAJARSHI SHAHU CHHATRAPATI PAPERS

Volume : II

(1894 - 1900 A. D.)

(Early Administrative Reforms)

No. 28

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati, in this letter of administrative importance to Lord Harris, the Governor of Bombay, pleads for the restoration to Kolhapur State its former powers of life and death over its subjects and for the resumption by the Kolhapur Darbar of its jurisdiction over certain higher Jahagirdars.

Panhala,
14-11-1894.

My dear Lord Harris,

I have come up here for a few days with my family, for the climate of this place agrees with them better than that of the plains below. In the course of the last month I was lucky enough to get three panthers in the adjoining jungles. One of them was full grown being 7-1 in length. It is now more than six months that I have been going on with my administrative work. I have gained considerable insight with it, and have begun to feel much interest in it. Your Excellency is shortly to meet H. E. the Viceroy. May I, therefore, write to you on the following points that you might speak personally about them to him. Under Art. 7 of the revised agreement of 1862 between the British Govt. and the Kolhapur State, sentences of death are to be reported to the authority of Govt. for confirmation. These were troublous times and since then there has been much change and therefore I hope Your Excellency will not think it unreasonable if I request you to consider and recommend to H. E. the Viceroy to restore to my State its former powers in this matter. I believe Your Excellency knows that many states that are of much less importance as regards their salute, area, population and revenue have the powers of life and death.

For instance-

State	Area	Population	Revenue	Guns.
Sachin	42	21289	202988	9
Cambay	350	89722	604504	11
Bansda	215	41373	245926	9
Dharampur	794	120498	268081	9
Jauhar	534	52796	150000	9
Kolhapur	2855	913131	3379442	19

I think some change is also necessary in Art. 18 of the same Agreement in respect of the Residency Criminal Jurisdiction of

certain higher Jahagirdars under me and the general supervision over them. Since 1862 Education has advanced, the system of administering justice has improved and peace has been restored. You will, therefore, agree with me, if I say that the Kolhapur Darbar may be safely allowed to resume its jurisdiction over them. Your Excellency has been taking a keen interest in me and I should value the privileges more than if I should get them back at your hands.

Lately I had the pleasure of hearing from H. E. Lady Harris and I am glad to learn that she has been enjoying her trip to England. I am so very sorry to learn that I should have no chance of seeing her here, as she is not returning to India. Please remember me kindly to Her Excellency. My brother and the Ranees have asked me to remember them to Your Excellency and Lady Harris.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 77

Shahu Chhatrapati gives a detailed account of his shooting trip on the Bijapur side to his former guardian and tutor Mr. S. M. Fraser.

Kolhapur,
July 30, 1895

My dear Mr. Fraser

I am sorry I could not write to you earlier. I returned only yesterday from a Shikar trip on the Bijapur side. We had a very pleasant time of it. We had a very large party consisting of 14 Sardars and Mankaris among whom may be mentioned my brother, uncle, Himat Bahadur, Mhaisalkar, Rangrao, Appasaheb, Nanasaheb, Bhausaheb, Dattajirao (Sr.), the Jr. being absent on account of his studies, my brother-in-law Babasaheb and Mr. Sabnis who now rides sufficiently well to bear us company in the Shikar. We started by the S. M. Rly on 15th instant and went via Dharwar which we reached at day-break. We had a look at the familiar scenes there and were put in mind of the pleasant days we spent with you and Bhausingji. I was very much inclined to stop there at least for a few hours, but could not do so, as there was no convenient train to leave by. We then proceeded and reached Malwad next day 2 o' clock in the morning, Malwad is about 12 miles on this side of Bijapur. From Malwad we went to +++ pur where had received Khabar that there were many pigs. This time we carefully excluded small pigs and sows. We got there big boars, Bapusaheb, Nanasaheb and Rangrao, getting first spears. This was on the day we reached there. Next day the ground was very heavy on account of the rains. So we could do nothing, as it was raining very hard, we had to go to Bijapur. Mr. Panse, the Ag. Collector there gave us a warm reception and we found ourselves very comfortable at the Traveller's Bungalow nearing the whispering gallery. It reminded us again of the pleasant trip we had there with you. Our party went out buck-shooting and we got 16 bucks and 3 does which were shot by mistake. Thence we left for Tilsuri which is about 30 miles from there. At Tilsuri our party got 4 bears. Elder Dattajirao got first spears at two and my brother-in-law and myself at the remaining two. We then went to Muchandi which is about 30 miles from that place. We did not get good sport there. Because the administrator of Jat had got the place cleared of prickly pear and by hired men destroyed the pigs by shooting and burning them. I was awfully annoyed at hearing this. We are thus deprived of one of the excellent grounds for pig-sticking. I am sure if Major Wray had been here, he would

never have allowed such butcher-like slaughter. Last year we got about 30 pigs out of nearly 100 that broke cover. But this time we could start only 5, out of which 4 being females had to be let alone and we had to satisfy ourselves with only one boar at which my brother had the first-spear. From there we returned by road on horseback to Miraj by stages. On the way at Kulati we killed a big boar which had been an object of terror to the villagers, as it had killed and injured many persons. My brother got the first spear at it. Perhaps I have given you too detailed an account of our Shikar. So I need not write more. Colonel Hunter is expected tomorrow and the old difficulty is likely to crop up again. Remember me kindly to Mrs. Fraser.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 99

Letter from H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati to Lord Sandhurst, the Governor of Bombay, about his relations with his Feudatories and his plea to restore to him the residency criminal jurisdiction in the feudatory states which is now exercised by the Political Agent.

Kolhapur,
3rd November 1895.

My dear Lord Sandhurst,

I hope Your Excellency had a pleasant trip to Castle-Rock and back though I believe the heat must have been rather trying. In our private interview I promised to write to Your Excellency about *my relations with my feudatories.* In this connection I have to place before Your Excellency two points.

1) In Art. 3 of the Treaty of 1862 eight feudatories are mentioned, four of them have much larger estates than the rest and therefore have been looked upon as principal feudatories. It is owing to this fact that during almost the last 50 years of minority when my State was under the direct supervision of Govt. they have been invested with larger powers, while the remaining four enjoyed lesser powers. Of late a question has arisen about the powers of the latter. I wish in their case to keep not only the *status quo* but to treat them more liberally when I find any of them better qualified. The Junior Chief of Kagal belongs to this class. I am giving him even more powers than those enjoyed by his father or his equals. If in this case a departure is made from long-standing practice, his brother feudatories will also claim similar powers. Besides, such a step will, I am afraid, weaken the efficiency of the administration as these Jahagirdars having but small income cannot afford to keep high paid competent officers. The correspondence about this in which all the points have been explained may have gone to your Govt.

2) According to the same Art. of the Treaty, cases involving imprisonment of more than 7 years arising in the local limits of any feudatory have to be sent up to Political Agent for trial. This provision was, I believe, made because there were not then well-qualified

officers in the State and as the Treaty was made soon after the disturbed times and not because as the Treaty says, "In any way to infringe the seignr rights of the Raja, but merely to secure good government and to prevent those disputes which in old days were frequently the cause of disturb and blood-shed." Recently Govt. have been pleased to restore to me life and death powers as a mark of confidence in me, and as I believe I have competent officers and those troublous times have gone away. It would, therefore, I trust seem not unreasonable if I request Govt. to restore to me the residency criminal jurisdiction in the feudatory-states which is now exercised by the Political Agent.

I am leaving here for Poona tomorrow and hope to have the pleasure of seeing Your Lordship before H. E. the viceroy arrives there.

Kindly remeber me to Lady Sandhurst.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 142

In a letter to S. M. Fraser, the former tutor and guardian, H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati narrates his thrilling tiger hunt and conveys about his recent administrative reforms in the State.

Panhala,
12-4-1896.

My dear Fraser,

I have not written to you for a long time. In the first place I have to thank you for your kind letter dated 22nd ultimo. As advised by you I have asked the Dewan to get an expert from Bombay to examine the New Palace. Of late I have become rather nervous about it, as the cracks are widening and some of them are in the stone pillars. I had to give up the idea of going to Amboli as the stages could not be conveniently arranged for. The short tour I made in the Districts was a lucky one. I bagged three boars, one stag Chital with very good horns and a fine tiger. It was full grown being 8′-9″ and was quite a beauty. I shot it under rather peculiar circumstances. It was the last day of tour. Every (+ + +) had been made (+ + +) Kolhapur where my presence was necessary to settle the Harda tender. But almost we were on the point of starting my Shikar men brought Khabar that a tiger had killed two bullocks. You can well imagine my state of mind. I could hardly withstand the temptation. As arranged, however, all the servants and kits were sent to Kolhapur and I remained behind with a few Shikaris only. A few beaters were hastily collected and I went and took up my seat on the *Mala*. After anxiously waiting for about a couple of hours, I got down almost in dispair, when suddenly he burst upon my view. It was looking straight in the direction of the Mala. There was no alternative but to stand stock-still by the tree. Luckily it turned away a bit aside. I unfortunately took my shot-gun and shot, it not being a rifle, the shot did not tell as it should have and the brute charged at me. I at once climbed up the tree and had hardly time to take my aim when it came just below the tree. The contents of the 2nd barrel were discharged at it and luckily they were enough to settle him. When he charged at me, I so wished Buasaheb was near; but I was alone with one Shikari. We were of course very joyous over the prize and carried it in the brake we drove in. The load was too heavy for a pair specially when it had to be carried such a long way. I had, therefore, to make a unicorn and everything had to be managed by means of ropes only. So the whole affair was very funny and it attracted crowds of villagers as we went along. I am glad, however,

No. 143

In reply to Lord Sandhurst, the Governor of Bombay, H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati expresses his satisfaction over the appointment of Major Wray as Political Agent at Kolhapur and S.M.C. States; tenders information about his proposed reforms in the State and thanking the Governor for his sincere advice, H. H. gives vent to his feelings and conviction of mind in following words :- " Adverse criticism is very annoying when one is honestly trying to discharge one's duty, but I believe with long run truth prevails ".

Panhala,
16-4-1896

My dear Lord Sandhurst,

I have read with very great pleasure Your Excellency's kind letter dated 11th instant.* I do not know how to thank Your Excellency for the good wishes and kind and sincere advice it contains. Adverse criticism is very annoying when one is honestly trying to discharge one's duty; but I believe with long run truth prevails. I am highly obliged to Your Excellency for the appointment of Major Wray as Political Agent of Kolhapur and S.M.C. States. I have knowm him since the time of my father, the late Regent. They were great friends and I hope to find in him a sympathetic and congenial officer. I am looking forward with great pleasure to my visit to Mahabaleshwar and intend going there about the 20th instant. H. H. Jamnabai Saheb of Baroda is visiting Narasoba Wadi and may perhaps come to Kolhapur. In that case I may have to postpone the date of my departure for a few days. In my last tour in the Districts I visited the Gadhinglaj and Bhudargad Petas. The people in the former are fairly well off; but the latter being situated near the Sahyadri range is not very fertile. People have, therefore, their forest grievances and the Rayats are deep in debt. I have been thinking how to remedy these evils. The least concession to the Forest Tribes makes them bold and they recklessly cut down the jungles for Kumri. So one has to be very cautious even in giving them a helping hand. The poor condition of the Rayats is also a knotty question. I should very much like to see the actual cultivators hold lands in their own name but they are fast sinking to the level of mere hired labourers. I thought there was want specially in the Districts near the Sahyadri; so a Girls School and a School for Mahomedans have been ordered to be opened. For a very long time the question of the lepers in the Narasoba Wadi has been before me. It is a place for

pilgrimage and men from distant parts always visit it. I wish to segregate the lepers, but it is a very difficult question and I should like to talk personally to Your Excellency in the matter. My views about the subject are that a farmacy be established for them and the sexes should be separated. At first I intend admitting genuine Kolhapur subjects and asking the feudatories to pay for the maintenance of lepers from their districts.

With best wishes,

Believe me,
Yours sincerely.
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

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* Vide Page 178-Paper No. 141.

No. 162

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati informs Mr. Leewarner about the way he is dealing with Congressmen and also about the spread of Plague in the adjoining districts of Poona and Satara.

Kolhapur
15th Octr. 1897

My dear Mr. Leewarner

Thanks for your kind letter of the 12th September enclosed in Col. Wray's. I have always kept at arm's length the congresswalas and other agitators as I consider them mischief makres.

I am happy to tell you the season so far as the crops are concerned is a very good one, and will make up for last year's scarcity. But unfortunately the plague is spreading in the adjoining districts of Poona and Satara.

We have had some starting news from Poon about the atrocious murder and after all, there are Bramhins at the bottom. My brother joins in kind remembrances to Mrs. Leewarner.

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 166

Letter from H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati to Mr. Nugent, regarding the strained relations between him and Col. Wray, the Political Agent.

25-11-97

My dear Mr. Nugent,

Your kind letters of the 19th and 23rd reached me duly. I am very pleased at the prospect of another opportunity of seeing you here. Kindly let me know the date of your arrival. I am exceedingly thankful to you for your kind advice and the great personal interest you take in me and my affairs. When I have personally explained to you how, since Col. Wray's appointment, I have been studiously careful, on my side not to displease him, I hope to be able to satisfy you that I shall be as I have hitherto been the last man to allow my relations with the political Agent to be strained. Especially with Col. Wray, whose appointment I hailed with sincere delight because we have known one another for a long time. It was, with the greatest relations that I requested the reference to be made to Government when I found that all my best assurances were of no avail in satisfying Col. Wray that the Darbar was not at fault in this instance as in several others which have recently occurred. However good Col. Wray's intentions may be, with all due deference to what you have said, I cannot still help thinking that his very way of writing especially in official communications, is a reflection on the Darbar and I saw no other way left open to me but a reference to Govt. I do not really see why in this instance a reference to Govt. should signify any tension on my part, when it has been the invariable practice to submit to Govt. all matters, big and small, in which there is a difference of opinion between the Political Agent and the Darbar.

The tampering with letters is no doubt a serious matter, and no punishment can be too severe for those concerned in this infamous work. Again thanking you for your very kind advice and hoping to see you soon.

Yours very sincerely
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 169

Mr. Leewarner of India Office, London congratulates H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati on the birth of his first son.

EMBLEM

INDIA OFFICE
WHITEHALL S. W.
30. VII

My dear Maharaja

My very warmest congratulations on the announcement which we all receive with the greatest pleasure the birth of your first son. With telegrams from Malakand before me I can do no more than assure you of my very hearty interest in your own welfare and the welfare of your house. Thank the Dewan for sending me word.

Your very sincere friend
Sd/- W. Leewarner

No. 170

Shahu Chhatrapati enquires from Col. Wray the points to be discussed in the Ichalkaranji matter.

Kolhapur
20th Novr. 1897

My dear Col. Wray,

Many thanks for your notes of yesterday, and I am glad to hear that Mrs. Wray is very much better.

If you will kindly let me know the points to be disscused in the Ichalkaranji matter I will prepare myself and also bring the Diwan with me.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati

After the conclusion of the celebrations, His Highness in acknowledging the Kharita received from His Exellency the Viceroy and Governor General of India, sent the following reply :-

To

His Excellency the Right Honourable

Victor Alexander Bruce, Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, P.C., LL.D., G.M.S.I., G.M.I.E., Lord Bruce of Kinloss and Lord Bruce of Terry in the Kingdom of Scotland and Baron Elgin of Elgin in the United Kingdom, Viceroy and Governor General of India.

My esteemed friend,

It has given me sincere pleasure to receive Your Excellency's Kharita, dated Simla the 5th June 1897, which was delivered to me by my friend Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Wray, Political Agent, Kolhapur, and Southern Maratha Country at a Full Dress Darbar held by me on the 21st June 1897 in honor of the celebration of the 60th anniversary of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen Empress of India's accession to the throne.

I have to thank your Excellency for the kind expressions of friendship and sympathy conveyed in your Excellency's Kharita.

The Victorian age has been an era of continued progress both in England and India and the marvellous changes and improvements, achieved in all departments of modern thought during Her Majesty's most glorious and ever memorable reign, mark it as the greatest epoch of advancement, thoroughly illustrating the great truth that the crown is in reality held for the people and when rightly held it ensures the moral as well as material triumphs of Government, and herein lies Her Majesty's just claim to the ever-lasting and grateful remembrance and the most heart-felt loyalty of the people of Her Majesty's vast dominions.

I am happy to inform your Excellency that I have already telegraphed, through the Government of Bombay, an expression of my loyalty and devotion to Her Most Gracious Majesty and a wish that the benefits of her reign may be long continued to India, and that I have also sent, through the same Government, a suitable address to the foot of the throne.

In conclusion I can assure your Excellency that it will be my guiding principle to maintain-in-tact the cordial relations which have always subsisted between Her Majesty's Government and myself.

I remain
with much consideration
Your Excellency's sincere friend
(Signed) SHAHU CHHATRAPATI,
Raja of Kolhapur.

His Highness also sent the following address to Her Gracious Majesty:

To

HER IMPERIAL MAJESTY ALEXANDRIANA VICTORIA,
QUEEN OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT
BRITAIN AND IRELAND,
EMPRESS OF INDIA.

May it please Your Most Gracious Majesty,

To the hearty congratulations which will be offered to Your Most Gracious Majesty from every part of Your Majesty's vast Empire, on this rare and most auspicious occasion of the celebration of the Sixtieth Year of Your Majesty's glorious reign, I beg permission to add my own as well as those of Their Highnesses the Ranis and the people of Kolhapur.

Deeply grateful for the honours which Your Most Gracious Majesty has been pleased to confer on me since I was called upon to rule over my Territory I will always cherish them as the most valued marks of Your Majesty's appreciation of my humble endeavours for he welfare of the people entrusted to my care.

I fervently join in the prayer which will go up this day from every quarter of Your Majesty's world encircling dominions for the prolongation of a reign to which the whole world will unite in according pre-eminence for its length and prosperity, wisdom and benevolence and above all its feminine love and sympathy for the teeming millions privileged to be Your Imperial Majesty's subjects.

With feelings of the most profound veneration and unswerving loyalty,

I beg permission to subscribe myself Your Most Gracious Majesty's Most Faithful and Devoted Servant.

(Signed) SHAHU CHHATRAPATI,
Raja of Kolhapur

Dated Kolhapur, 21st June 1897

The address which was engrossed on Vellum and suitably illuminated was placed in a casket of solid gold and silver made by a State artist after an oriental design and sent to the Government of Bombay by the hand of Narayanrao Ingale, a Mankari and relative of His Highness for transmission to Her Majesty the Queen Empress. The receipt of the address has lately been acknowledged with special thanks from Her Majesty.

No. 179

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati informs Mr. Nugent, about the circumstances under which Mr. Candy's services are terminated and about the request to the British Government to send some suitable Officer of the Educational Deptt. to replace Mr. Candy as the Principal of Rajaram College.

Kolhapur
29th May 1898

My dear Mr. Nugent

I am very thankful to you for your kind letters dated 25th instant. I am glad H. E. and yourself are one regarding the step I am going to take with Mr. Candy. The letter about him has been sent to the P. A. and it may soon go before Govt. I am sorry I had at last to take this step. But I was almost driven to it by Mr. Candy's persistently improper conduct and I think I showed sufficient patience with him. You know that he had to apologise to me during Lord Harris time. Even after that he spoke disparagingly of me at Chinchli where he was my guest and spread all sorts of rumours about me. I learned this from my friends, european and native. Moreover he has lost all influence over boys in the school. He kicked a boy in the class room, another in the street, for not saluting him. So he is sometimes hissed and footed by them. He has picked up quarrels with the native and european community and has so made himself very disagreeable in the station. Nor is his conduct towards his official superiors in keeping with his position. This is not to be wondered at considering that he has ventured to disrespect even the P. A.. I no longer think it safe to keep an officer of this stamp at the head of an educational institution. The political agent has, therefore, been asked to inform Govt. that Mr. Candy's services are not needed after the end of this year. Request has also been made to Govt. that as a special case Mr. Candy may be exchanged with some suitable officer of the educational department.

I have returned from Wadi today after performing religious ceremonies.

Yours very sincerely,
Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 183

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati informs Fraser, the former tutor and guardian, about the changes made by him in the administration during the year.

Kolhapur.
3rd September 1898

My dear Mr. Fraser

It is a long time since I had the pleasure of receiving from you. For the last year I have not been able to stir out of Kolhapur. It was only during the last month that I went out for a few days to Jamkhindi and Mudhol for a Shikar trip with Col. Wray. The change of air was welcome after so long a stay in my territory.

Since you left us there have been so many changes in the administration. You know already that both the late Chief Judge and Chief Rev-Officer are no more. Mr. Sabnis was appointed in the place of the latter and Mr. Kirtikar took his place. Recently for various reasons I had to change both Mr. Kirtikar and the Dewan. The latter has gone on sick leave and will retire after that. I have put in Mr. Sabnis as permanent Diwan the selection has not met with the approval of the Political Agent. I am glad that so long he has done credit to your recommendation and I think he will prove worthy of my confidence. I hope Mrs. Fraser has been keeping good health and you are all happy there.

Bapusaheb myself and family are keeping well.
With kind regards
Believe me.

Yours very sincerely,
Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 184

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati informs Fraser, former tutor and guardian, significant changes made in his Council and conveys that Mr. Sabnis is the new Diwan and Mr. Marathe is the new Huzur Chitnis.

Kolhapur
12th September 1898

My dear Mr. Fraser

I was delighted to read your kind letter of the 7th instant. Most certainly I can never be bothered by any questions from you. My Council is now quite changed. Mr. Subnis, as you khow, is the Diwan and Mr. Shirgaonkar, who was public prosecutor here and in the agency court, is the Chief Revenue Officer. Before that he was City Magistrate and for some time Chief Police Officer in the State. Mr. Panditrao is the Chief Judge. He had been serving in the State as Sub-Judge and District Officer for 8 years. He is one of the hereditary officers of the State. Mr. Kirtikar is made Daftardar and Mr. Marathe has been made Huzur Chitnis. The latter is a Brahmin by caste and I do not believe you know him. Let me hope that all these officers will prove honest and loyal because my experience is that it is almost impossible to have men having both these qualities. You may have read the Kolhapur notes in one of the issues of the Bom

(INCOMPLETE)

No. 185

Request from C. H. Candy to H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati for private interview.

26-9-98

My dear Maharaja,

I hope you will kindly give me a private interview, and let me know the time that will be convenient for Your Highness.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/- C. H. Candy

No. 189

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati thanks Lord Sandhurst, the Governor of Bombay, for recommending Mr. Adair as Principal of Rajaram College in place of Mr. Candy and hopes that Mr. Adair will join his new post on 1-1-1899.

Kolhapur
27th October 1898

My dear Lord Sandhurst

I am much obliged to Your Excellency for your kind letter dated 24th instant. It is exceedingly kind of your Lordship to recommend a suitable man in place of Mr. Candy and I do not know how to thank Your Excellency for the interest and trouble you have taken in this matter. I think Mr. Adair will do very well for the post. His varied experience in the educational line and his attainments would seem to make him fitted for the place of Principal. I am sure both the Rajaram College and the State will gain by the change of hands and hope Mr. Adair may be able to join his appointment on 1st January next when the college studies begin.

Yours very sincerely,
Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 202

This is an incomplete letter written by H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati in his own handwriting to Col. Wray, the Political Agent, regarding food poison Case, the possible scandal about the Darbar and his firm conviction that "it is better to risk such scandal than to let the culprits escape."

New Palace
1st Sept. 1899

My dear Col. Wray

The Diwan told me that the chemical analyser to Govt. has detected sand and glass in the loaves sent to him for analysis. I think this to be a very grave matter and I should very much like to go to the bottom of it. If we do not take steps at once the Man concerned may get time to out their heads together and may make a false story.

It is really very kind of you to think of the scandle it may create about the Durbar as it was Durbar dinner of which advantage was taken but I personally think that it is better to risk such scandal than to let the culprits escape. It will only make them very hot to do such things again. If you approve I shall ask the police to move in matter at once as the offence concerns both the residency and the Darbar I do not think it proper to proceed in the matter before consulting you. I am thinking of writing in the matter privately to Mr. Nugent and Mr. Edgerley if you approve.

It is I think it very lucky that the loaves were not used on the day, and I cannot thank you and Mrs. Wray enough for the foresight and the prevention.

(INCOMPLETE)
(The whole draft letter is written by Rajarshi Shahu Chhatrapati)

No. 207

H. H. Shahu's letter to Col. Wray, the Political Agent regarding the progress made in food poisoning case inquiry.

My dear Col. Wray

Mr. Sabnis showed me the Governor's wire and note sent by you to him and to facilitate the inquiry I asked Mr. Kirtikar to take leave for six months. He argued with me and said he was quite innocent and would rather be tried than go away under suspicion. I told him to take leave and that I would not give any more reason. He then consented very unwillingly. I hope that Mr. + + + inquiry may go and he will arrive at the truth soon.

I am very sorry for all this worry to you. I have had a trip to Shirol where the people seemed to be highly pleased with recent rains.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati

17-9-99

No. 208

R. V. Sabnis, the Diwan, orders Mr. Kirtikar to proceed on six months leave out of Kolhapur as it will facilitate inquiry in food poisoning case.

My dear Mr. Kirtikar

It is considered that the inquiry now going on regarding the attempted poisoning at the last dinner given to the Honourable Mr. James at the New Palace would have a more open field if you could absent yourself from Kolhapur. I have therefore to request under direction from H. H. the Chhatrapati Maharaj that you will be so good as to go on six months leave out of Kolhapur.

Yours Sincerely,
Sd/- R. V. Sabnis

18-9-99

P. S. You may avail yourself of the leave if possible from today handing over charge to the Naib Daftardar.

No. 215

Letter from H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati to Col. Wray, the Political Agent, conveying Shahu's reaction to the desire expressed by Col. Wray in the matter of proceeding with the poisoning case.

EMBLEM Date 5-10-99

CHHATRAPATI OF KOLHAPUR

My dear Col. Wray

At the personal interview today you expressed a desire that the public prosecutor should with-draw his application for remand in the poison case. I have thought the matter over and have come to the conclusion that it would not be advisable to do so for if the case proceeded with the Police Officer asked for from Govt. will be placed in a very awkward position in his investigation. If you however still differ from me, I should be glad to have your advice in writing.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati

5-10-99

(The letter is written by Rajarshi Shahu Chhatrapati on his letter-head).

No. 216

Shahu Chhatrapati thanks Bombay Government for sparing services of an able detective like Mr. Brewin and informs that many people have started evacuating the Kolhapur town due to the spread of Plague.

Kolhapur.
7th October 1899.

My dear Mr. Nugent

I am really much obliged to you for both the kind letters and by mistake of the post they reached me on the same day that is yesterday. I feel very thankful to you that they have spared the services of an able detective like Mr. Brewin. I have now hope that the mystery may soon be solved and the whole matter cleared up.

I am going to Miraj by the afternoon train tomorrow to see H. E. next morning when he arrives there.

It is a dreadful worry to have the plague in the city. People cant or wont understand our measures and that increases the difficulty. I am however glad that they are evacuating the town in large numbers.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/-Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 220

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati, in a personal letter to S. M. Fraser, expresses his worries about the active role played by Mrs. Wray in official matters.

Panhala
18th November 1899

My Dear Mr. Fraser

The accompanying sketch is copies by my confidential clerk but I should like to add a word about Mrs. Wray without which the account can't be complete. I do this with the greatest reluctance but as most of the P. A.'s acts are prompted by her, it would be hardly right to throw the whole blame on the P. A. Her advice is always imperious and she even goes to the length of drafting letters for the Durbar in official matters. I have got some of them and I should never show them to anybody but you when we meet personally. Some time it happens that the P. A. gives one advice and Mrs. Wray gives a different one. In such a case you can only imagine the strength of Mrs. Wray who carries the point both against the P. A. and the Durbar.

The worst of it is that spies are sent to watch the actions of high officers like Dr. Sinclair and others and even my friends and Sardars of course including myself and the missionaries also share the same fate. All this to an outsider may look like exaggeration but any one living in Kolhapore or in the vicinity of Kolhapur will attest the truth of it. I assure you that this picture is not over drawn and I am ready to show that it is under drawn.

Yours sincerely
Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 222

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati in a personal letter to S. M. Fraser, informs him about Mr. Brewin's report on the poisoning case, and expresses his concern that his sincere efforts in carrying out his duties are not appreciated by others.

Panhala
25th November 1899

My dear Mr. Fraser

I am sending you separately by register post Copy of Mr. Brewin's report on the poison case as promised in my last letter. I am sorry I could not do so earlier having got the copy only today when you read it you will know every thing about the case. Mr. Brewin says that he has not put in all he knows.

I am glad to inform you that Mr. Nugent takes the same view as I do. The Wrays lately are not on good terms with him probably because he does not agree with them in this matter. The P. A. however seems to be certain of support in other directions. I am feeling it difficult to get access to His Excellency to whom I have written direct also for an interview.

The climate of Panhala is charming at present but I am soon leaving on a short tour in parts where there is scarcity. You have no idea how worried I am feeling on account of all these troubles. I am afraid I am over worked and yet I hear that reports are made that I am not doing my duties. But I know what I am doing. So I do not mind such reports though of course I do not like them.

Please remember me to Mrs. Fraser.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati

P. S. My family is in good health and I hope your children are all well.

Sd/-Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 227

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati informs Mr. Fraser about the Darbar's remarks on Mr. Brewin's report, sends notes of his conversation with Col. Wray and gives an account of the extent of hard work done by him in Kolhapur.

Kolhapur.
7th Dec. 1899

My dear Mr. Fraser

I do not know how to thank you for the extremely kind letters full of sincere advice and sympathies sent by you. I am in receipt of them both. You will be glad to hear that I received a telegram yesterday in reply to my letters to H. E. He says he will meet my wishes and will grant me a private interview and I expect a letter from H. E. tomorrow, and shall write to you again on its receipt.

I am sending you a copy of the Darbar's remarks on Mr. Brewin's report. Col. says that they are short and sweet but the Darbar has tried to kick up as much dirt as possible at him and used all good words in Dictionary to praise the investigating officers and that the Darbar ought to have sided with the P. A. I have asked the Diwan to send a copy of the notes of conversation I had with the Wrays in order to give you an idea as to how private interviews are held. You will understand from them my unwillingness to have such interviews. In fact I only sleep at Panhala and spend the whole day in doing my office work as the office is here. The mornings I spend in supervising the plague work in the city. A few days ago I rode about 40 miles cross country to see the State of crops myself. I used only one horse and went at the rate of nearly 3 miles an hour as I had to make inquiries as I went along. It was very tiresome. I may say more tiresome than my Mahableshwar trip on horseback. I am just leaving for Panhalla after two days here. Kindly remember me to Mrs. Fraser and excuse the servants.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/-Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 229

Letter from H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati informing Lord Reay, the former Governor of Bombay, about the Plague, famine and food poisoning case difficulties which he had to face and hoping that the new Governor of Bombay will take interest in Kolhapur State affairs.

Kolhapur,
11th December 1899

My dear Lord Reay

I have not had the pleasure of writing to Your Lordship for a very long time. The December is having rather a bad time of it. Plague and famine have been raging in all parts and my State also has been affected. This has increased my anxieties and worries. To add to them we had the poison case of which Your Lordship may have read in the papers. The investigation is now over and it has come out in it that the whole affair was apparently planned by one Mr. Phillip, Col. Wray's butler to gain his own ends. The new Governor will be coming in February next and I hope he may take the same interest in me as Your Lordship, perhaps Your Lordship may know him.

Please kindly remember me to Lady Reay.

With best wishes for a happy new year.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 232

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati informs S. M. Fraser about the exact position of his relations with the officers of the Political Department, Bombay.

Kolhapur
27th December 1899

My dear Mr. Fraser.

My last letter may have acquainted you with what we wrote on Brewin's Report and from your reply it seems you do not disapprove the remark made. I have been extremely careful not to say anything disrespectful to the Political Agent. Most certainly as advised by you, I am going to draw up very carefully the points of my conversation with His Excellency. Of course I cannot be too cautious, but it is necessary to place before him all that I feel in proper terms, it is no doubt a difficult task, but I hope the rightness of my cause will help me to do it.

I have received an extremely kind and encouraging letter from Sir W. Leewarner and I know it is all owing to your kindness, I have just written to him in reply but have not said much about the poison case for your perusal I have asked copies of his letter and reply to it and also of the letters I received from Mr. Edgerley and Sir Charles Ollevent and Mr. Nugent to be sent to you. I cannot think how I could have offended Sir Charles or Mr. Edgerley. I always make it a point to call on them whenever I get an opportunity. But it seems perhaps my writing direct to H. E. may have offended them, but this I was forced to do, as I find my letters written through the P. A. or to them direct were of no avail. My fruitless attempt to see H. E. for nearly three months is an instance in point. Even Mr. Nugent under these circumstances advised me to write to H. E. The interview that has now been arranged for is not perhaps liked by them. This seems to be the only way in which I could have offended them. Please remember me to Mrs. Fraser.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/-Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 241

H. H. Shahu Chh. informs Mr. Edgerley of the Political Department, Bombay about his relations in general with all Political Agents including Col. Wray.

Kol.
26-1-1900.

My dear Mr. Edgerley,

I arrived here safe from Bombay & am glad to find that plague has now almost disappeared from Kolhapur. Panhala too is now quite free.

I am very sorry indeed not to have been able to see you personally at leisure in Bombay. I should very much have liked to have a quiet talk with you over Kolhapur affairs & take up any suggestions you might have made. But I had no opportunity to do so. I was extremely happy to hear from my Diwan that you were good enough to inquire about me & your interest in me and my affairs continues unabated. Your desire that Col. Wray and I should part as friends was also communicated to me by the Diwan. I never wanted nor do I wish to fall out with the Pol. agent & you are I believe aware what my relations had been with Col. Wray's predecessors & even with Col. Wray himself till this unfortunate poison case cropped up. In this case too I did my best to please Col. Wray & I wrote to you as soon as there was difference of opinion between him & me on important points & you know what course things have been taking since that time. I should have liked very much to explain personally how I was constrained by the conduct of Col. Wray to take the various steps I had recourse to. You would then have realised my position & been able to suggest how I should shape my future conduct.

If I come there in the next month as I hope to do I shall be extremely happy to see you.

Please remember me to Mrs. Edgerley, with kind regards,

Believe me,
Yours sincerely,
Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 243

Letter from Jahagirdar of Phaltan State informing about the ceremony of adopting a son performed by him on 28-12-1899.

श्री राम

श्रीमनमाहाराज राजश्री छत्रपती

स्वामी स्वामीचे सेवेसी

शेवेशी विनंती शेवक मुधोजीराव नाईक निंबाळकर देशमुख व जाहगीरदार संवस्थान फलटण सीर साष्टांग दंडवत विज्ञापना तागायत तारीख ३१ माहे जानेवारी सन १९०० ई॥ पावेता महाराजाचे कृपावलोकनेकरून सेवकाचे वर्तमान यथास्थित असे विशेष आम्ही शके १८२१ मार्गशीर्ष व॥ ११ तारीख २८ माहे दसंबर सन १८९९ ई गुरुवारी सकाळी रघुनाथराव संभाजीराव नाईक निंबाळकर यांचे धाकटे चिरंजीव नारायणराव यास सुमुहूर्त विधीयुक्त दत्तक घेतले आहे व त्याचे नांव मालोजीराव उर्फ नानासाहेब ठेविले आहे त्या पुत्रोत्सवाची शर्करा इकडील कारकुनाबरोबर पाठविली आहे तिचा स्वीकार करणे माहाराजाकडे आहे बहुत काय शेवेशी श्रृत होय हे विज्ञापना–

No. 244

H. H. Shahu Chh. thanks Lord Sandhurst, the Governor of Bombay for the courteous treatment extended to him.

Kolhapur.
3rd Feb. 1900

My dear Lord Sandhurst

As kindly suggested by you I am coming there on the 13th to say good bye to you and also to receive the new Governor.

I take this opportunity of thanking your Excellency heartily for the extremely kind and courteous treatment I have received from your Lordship throughout your Excellency's career.

Please remember me to Lady Sandhurst.

Yours sincerely,
Shahu Chhatrapati.

RAJARSHI SHAHU CHHATRAPATI PAPERS

Volume : III

(1900 - 1905 A. D.)

(VEDOKTA CONTROVERSY)

No. 3

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati informs Mr. Edgerley of the Political Department, Bombay about the invitation to visit England, the new Political Agent, Col. Ferris, the great row kicked up in the State by the Brahmins over the Vedokta Question and the strong support received by him from Col. Sealy and Sir Charles Allivant.

Kolhapur
16th April 1902.

My dear Mr. Edgerley

I am really very ashamed not to have written to you so long. I am quite sure however you will excuse me for it.

I have been knocking about from one place to another in view of my intended trip to England. If time allows I should like to run down to Mahableshwar and see you there as I know you take very keen interest in me and I am sure to get useful advice from you. I feel it a very great honour to have been invited to represent this side of India and I am sure my visit will be of great benefit to me.

The present time is most suited for me as we have had a very good year.

I hope you have enjoyed your stay in England and are now quite fresh again.

Col. Ferris our new political agent is very kind to me and we are having a very good time.

I am very sory for the trouble which the Brahmins are giving me. In your absence, I was strongly backed by Col. Sealy, Sir Charles Allivant. So their mischievous applications to Govt. and nasty writings in the papers proved ineffectual. They wanted me to give effect to their orders and revive the old system of Brahmanic tyranny. Now however they have known that they cannot get Govt. to their side. So they are kicking up a great row within the state itself. However I shall speak to you at leisure when I see you. The Tilak case of which you may have read in the papers, has also to do much with this row as they think that my decision in the matter has principally gone against him. Please remember me to Mrs. Edgerley.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 6

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati conveys to Mr. Edgerley of the Political Department, Bombay the basic facts about the true Kshatriya origin of the Ghatage family from which he was adopted and makes clear that he never asked a Brahmin priest to perform Vedic Ritual in any other Maratha family.

Kolhapur
12th May 1902.

My dear Mr. Edgerley

I am very grateful to you for your kind letter dated 8th instant.

It seems the other side has represented their case to you. You can see what strength there is in their arguments. Every one knows that no distinction is made between a natural born and an adopted son, but that does not seem to be their point. Their objection is apparently based on the fact that the Ghatage family from which I am adopted is not a Kshatriya family but there are records which clearly disprove such an assumption. That family has always considered itself to be of true Kshatriya origin. In days gone by they have even gone to the length of excommunicating my family ancestors, and their names are found among those five Kshatriya families that exist. As regards my attempt to pull through other Maratha families, I may say I have no concern in the matter. Of course the Maratha families are really Kshatriyas and I do not know how they can be prevented from putting forth their claims. But the present question is only concerning me, and I never asked the Rajopadhye or any other Brahmin to perform Vedic Ritual in any other Maratha families.

Good bye now for the present.

Yours very sincerely
Sd/-Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 7

Personal letter from H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati to Mr. S. M. Fraser giving account of his satisfactory interview with His Excellency the Governor of Bombay at Mahabaleshwar and informing about the full support promised to him by the Government against the intrigues of the Brahmins.

Kolhapur
12th May, 1902.

My dear Mr. Fraser,

I am now on the eve of my departure and busy with work. I am very glad to let you know that Government have promised me full support against the intrigues of the Brahmins. It has enabled me to take a strong step in the matter, but I am anxious that I may not have to take back what I have done. You can well imagine what a triumph it will then be to the Brahmin community.

My visit at Mahabaleshwar to H. E. was very satisfactory. He also spoke to me encouragingly. In fact every one there asked me to be very strong, but I do not know what these Brahmin intrigues may be up to.

I am very glad that Mrs. Fraser will be with us on the voyage.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 17

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati, after his return from England, informs Mr. Edgerley of the Political Department, Bombay about the enthusiastic reception accorded to him by his subjects, the prevailing feelings of discontent among the Brahmin Class, the various attempts made in Kolhapur and Satara to help Rajopadhye, the difficulties created by the Brahmins in his visiting the Mahalaxmi Temple, and the high honour done to him by the Government in selecting him to represent the Chiefs of the Bombay Presidency.

Kolhapur
5th September, 1902

My dear Mr. Edgerley,

I am delighted to receive your kind letter of yesterday. I am having a very busy week as different sections of my subjects are vieing with each other in expressing their delight on my safe arrival.

My reception here has been very enthusiastic not-withstanding all attempts of the disaffected few to mar it. My circular about the giving of appointments in my state has of course led to much discontent among the B. Class here and also out side.

I learnt that two of Tilak's A. D. C. came here in my absence and tried to get up a strong opposition but I do not think, I could prevent such things. Natu, Bodas and Karandikar of Satara, have all been helping the Rajopadhye. You may have heard about Bodas. He is the same man who, they say, is going to Japan for the religious conference.

I hear that Natu had also been to Satara in_____ and tried to hold threats to the descendants of the old Satara line and get an admission from him in favour of Rajopadhye. He could do that as he was his creditor but I hear he did not succeed and then he tried the same trick with his sons and got them over to his side. This is what I hear and you may be able to have it verified.

I understood Col. Ferris to say that there was an admission from the old Satara line in favour of my late priest but I believe that might refer to what the sons admitted and not what their father has said. Its pity that the sons seem to be going more and more under the influence of the Poona B. It is customary to visit the local Goddess whenever we return here after a long tour and the Bs. here had a mind to prevent me from doing so unless I did some penance.

The educated Maratha community heard this and they told them that there were many B. who were allowed to enter the temple without doing penance and there is no reason why I should not be allowed and if they persist; they will have recourse to force. It seemed to me not the proper way and I decided not to enter the temple if there was the least resistance. But nobody came in the way. Still they have succeeded in getting some of the old Marathas to their side who would insist on my taking penance but they will find it very hard to force me to do so.

As regards the question of appearing in the procession, of course, I know, it is impossible to arrange it strictly in accordance with precedence and as Govt. has, as I learn distinctly, said that the order will have nothing to do with rank or precedence. I think it simply foolish to raise any objection in the matter.

I am fully aware of the very high honour done to me by Govt. in selecting me to represent the Chiefs of the Bombay Presidency and what is more; this was done by the Bombay Govt. without the least suggestion from me. This I value most and you should not even dream that there could be any objection from me regarding the arrangements which Govt. approve. I am really sorry to have troubled you with this long letter as you are so busy. Please remember me to Mrs. Edgerley.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 19

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati conveys to Mr. Edgerley of the Political Department, Bombay the two calamities of 14th Sept., 1902, viz. the death of his mother and the break of fire in the Old Palace, and the peculiar attitude of the Brahmins on these sad occasions.

Kolhapur
20th September 1902.

My dear Mr. Edgerley,

I am much obliged to you for your kind letters of condolence, and also another dated 18th instant regarding matters at Satara. I am again inquiring about the latter and shall write to you if I learn anything worth mention.

You can well imagine what a bad day I had on 14th instant. My mother died in the morning on that day and the whole of the afternoon was passed in performing obsequies which are very tiresome and which were rendered doubly so owing to the objection taken by the Brahmins and the religious threats held out by them even on that sad and solemn occasion near the burning place. With this however my troubles were not over. At about midnight I was suddenly awakened by cries of people who were shouting about that my Old Palace was on fire. I went to the spot at once and found that the fire had broken out in a place surrounded on one side by the Old Records and on the other by my granary and other stores of an inflammable nature.

It would have been difficult to put it out but for the timely and hearty assistance of Col. Ferris and Mr. Burke who lost no time in coming to the scene with the K. I. men.

The (B) community is naturally jubilant over this double calamity which they put to the anger of God.

I was looking forward to see you and H. Excellency soon, but the present sad event has stopped me for a time.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 20

In a personal handwritten letter to Mr. C. H. Hill of the Political Department, Bombay, H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati expresses satisfaction about the honours to be conferred on him by His Majesty, conveys his preparations for the Grand Durbar at Delhi, reveals the version of the Brahmins over the recent calamities, shows surprise over the red markings on many houses, and gives information about Rajopadhye's activities to influence the opinion of Palace Ladies and to create strong public opinion in Poona in Rajopadhye's favour.

EMBLEM

CHHATRAPATI MAHARAJA OF KOLHAPUR

Kolhapur
28th September 1902

My dear Mr. Hill

I am delighted to learn from my Diwan that Her Excellency Lady Northcote and yourself had a very pleasant return voyage and have arrived safe in Poona. It was really a very great pleasure to me also to learn from him the complimentary remarks about me made to you by Mr. Lawrence. I have also received a letter from Col. Wyllie informing me of His Majesty's intention of appointing me Knight Grand Cross of the Victoria Order and to confer on me a gold medal which is to be personally given to me by H. R. H. the Duke of Cannaught. I need not say how highly I value this. Let me again repeat that I owe all these honours and the whole success of my trip merely to your kind guidance. I shall never forget the deep obligations under which you have laid me.

I am in quite hurry with preparations for the Grand Durbar at Delhi. It is very lucky indeed that my state has just escaped from famine only Raibag has not had sufficient rain and I am leaving here only today for that place personally to see how matters stand.

You have heard of my mother's demise and also of the fire that broke out at the Old Palace that day. I was surprised to hear the version of (B) community regarding the origin of fire they say. We wanted to do away with the Sanads of the (B) and then to deprive them of their Inams. The story is very ingenious. It is not improbable however. That they might have purposely done this and to destroy the evidence against them. But I shall wait for the result of

the inquiry. There is another thing that requires to be carefully inquired into. Many houses here and in the districts have been marked in red. We do not know what it is, some say they are blood marks. The matter is however being carefully looked into.

You are aware of the review presented by Rajopadhye before the Council here. It has been rejected and I hear Rajopadhye is now in Poona making *Khatpat*.

He thinks of creating a strong public opinion against me there and with this view is visiting both natives and Europeans there. He has brought a deal of influence to bear on the Palace Ladies and would thus make it too hot for me.

Please remember me to His Excellencies Lord and Lady Northcote and kindly tell them how very sorry I am not to have been able to see them owing to my domestic calamity. Please remember me to Mrs. Hill when you write to her. I hope that the children are keeping well and that we may have the pleasure of seeing her at the Delhi Durbar.

Believe me.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati

(This draft letter is written by Rajarshi Shahu Chhatrapati in his own handwriting.)

No. 21

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati informs Diwan R. V. Sabnis about the condition of water tank at Raibag and instructs the Diwan to direct Mr. Bhide to see that excellent arrangements are made for Swami Nityanand and Rajaram Shastri Bhagwat during their stay in Kolhapur.

छत्रपती मोर्चेल शिक्का

रायबाग
२९/९/१९०२.

श्री

दिवाणसाहेब यांसि.

आज संध्याकालि पिके पाहाणेकरिता घोड्यावरून गेलो होतो. पिके अगदि उत्तम आहेत, सव्वा रुपया म्हटले तरि चालेल, तुर्त पाउसाचि जरूर नाही. तलावाचे पाणि उत्तम आहे. तपासा आंती असें ही कळते कि भर उन्हाळ्यात १२ फूट पाणि सकल जागेत होते व पिचींगचा बराच उपयोग झालासा दिसतो. ५ हजार रुपयाचे मानाने पाणि बरेच चांगले टिकले म्हणणेस हरकत नाही × × ३३००० हजार खर्चून ४ महीनेच पाण पुरत होते अशा प्रकारचे काम पुर्विचे अडमिनीस्ट्रेशन मध्यें झाले ही गोष्ट मोठि लांछनासपद आहे. आताहि पाणी पुष्कळ जाते म्हणजे कागलचे तलावाचे सवाइने जाते म्हणणेस हरकत नाहीं.

स्वामि नीत्यानंद व राजाराम शास्त्री भागवत यांस कोल्हापूरास असताना त्यांची व्यवस्था चांगलि राहिली पाहीजे. करीता भीड्याना सक्त ताकिद द्या.

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१ एक दोन दीवस जास्त मि राहीलो तर चालेल किंवा कसे.

२ अगर गुरुवारीचे येऊ.

सही मोडी / शाहू छत्रपति.

× × ×

(संपूर्ण पत्र राजर्षि शाहू छत्रपती यांच्या हस्ताक्षरांत आहे.)

No. 22

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati conveys thanks to Sir William Leewarner for help during his tour of England, and gives information about the intention of the Brahmins to make a great stir in Kolhapur and about the report regarding the suspected cause of recent fire in the Old Palace.

Kolhapur
12th October, 1902.

My dear Sir William Leewarner

You will be glad to learn that we all arrived here safe after a very comfortable return journey. I have not thanked you adequately for all you did for us there. We felt ourselves quite at home, knowing that you were there to guide us.

I have got a letter from Col. Wyllie informing myself the very high honour intended to be conferred on me by His Majesty the King Emperor. I need not say how highly I appreciate this fresh mark of His Majesty's Gracious Kindness which I shall never forget. I am sure, it is all due to you and I do not know in what words to convey my feelings of gratitude to you for this and various other acts of kindness you have done. On my coming here, I had no doubt a very grand reception from my subjects though I believe the Brahmins had to join in it as they could not do otherwise. They very much resent my circulars in favour of the backward classes.

I have been keeping a strictly neutral attitude but they seem to be bent on making great stir and I am figuring in all the vernacular papers.

They are, as you know, as intelligent as they are intriguing and do not know what they will be upto.

Recently my old palace was on fire and it is said that it was the doing of the B. Class and especially as many houses here and in the district were marked in red at the same time, I am inclined to believe the report, I have however not been able to trace the matter. Please remember me to Lady Leewarner and your son.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 23

In a letter to Mr. Macneil, H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati gives information about the role of the Brahmins in the incident of fire at the Old Palace and about the proposed plan of the Brahmin community to raise the issue in the present Parliament and, if necessary, to take the matters even to the Liberal Party when it comes into power.

Kolhapur
17th October, 1902.

My dear Mr. Macneil,

I am sorry I could not write to you earlier. You may have heard of my reception here from the papers. All classes except the B. Class were hearty in welcoming me. Even the latter had to join them for the sake of appearance.

You may also have heard of my mother's demise and the fire that occurred at the old palace on that day.

I am sorry I have not yet been able to trace the origin of the fire. Many attribute it to the intrigues of Bs. It's no wonder therefore that nothing could be traced. The B. Community is enraged with me and they say that they will take the matters to the highest tribunal that is Parliament and say if they do not succeed with the present Ministry they hope to win their point when the Liberals come into powers.

Balasaheb is trying to work out practically the agriculture bank scheme we discussed on the steamer. Let us see what success he gets.

The Bees are doing very well. They have already collected honey, but I am sorry my book of instructions is missing. I captured one or two local hives but they were not successful. I am going to catch some big hives in a few days.

In the next week, I am going to Mahableswar and shall be able to see the Govt. and Mr. Hill and Mr. Edgerley.

Are you coming there. I am looking forward to my visit to Mahableswar very much. I always look back with delight on the pleasant time we spent together.

With kind regards

Believe me

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/-Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 25

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati conveys thanks to Mr. Edgerley of the Political Department, Bombay and hints that in the present religious controversy he intends to take strong but cautious steps without any thought of spite or any fear of Brahmin class.

Kolhapur
25th November 1902.

My dear Mr. Edgerley,

I have not written to you for a long time how we have been doing here. Of course the question uppermost here in the minds of all is the religious controversy. It does not seem it will come to an end.

I am really very thankful to you for the kind messages I get now and then through Col. Ferris of your hearty support and it is a great consolation to me.

I am taking strong steps but I do not wish to do any thing that may have the least appearance of spite. Thereby I believe the B. class will not get any thing to base their intrigues upon because you know how clever they are in putting false appearances in the most trifling appearances. I only want to do things cautiously and not from any fear of (Brs.).

I should very much like to see you before I leave for Delhi but I am not quite sure that I can do so.

I am leaving for the districts shortly. There are splendid crops but I do not know what ravages the plague may do. It is very bad at Miraj and Belgaum and everyday we have imported cases.

Let me hope that this place may remain free at least till we leave for Delhi.

With kind regards,

Believe me,
Yours sincerely,
Sd/-Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 26

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati in a letter to Mr. C. H. Hill of the Political Department, Bombay reports the incident about the staging of the Vedokta Scene included as a supplement to the Act Second of the Drama called "Tukaram" by the students of Rajaram College, Kolhapur and informs about the institution of regular enquiries into the matter at Herla Village where a Brahmin named Vishnubhat actually disobeyed the Government summons.

Kolhapur.
25th November 1902.

My dear Mr. Hill,

I am sorry I have not been able to write to you for a long time. You may have heard how things are getting on here. You might have learnt what took place on the occasion of Pansupari by the students of the Rajaram College to Mr. Adair. At that time they were prevented from rehearsing the Vedokta scene in the drama called Tukaram. So they have now put it on the stage. Many marathas came to me asking me to stop the performance. I read the piece objected to. It is no doubt insulting but written very cleverly. Some say the author and the company would not get in to the clutches of law. All things considered I thought it better to let matters alone. What struck me most about the piece was that it was evidently put in as after thought by the author, as it is given at the end of the book as a supplement to the second act. So it seems intended to throw into contempt the present action. You might have also learnt what the village officer did at Herla. I have instituted regular inquiries into the matter and shall take strong steps. The D. O. doing the work has told me to my great surprise that a B named Vishnubhat has actually disobeyed the summons. I am taking steps also in that matter. I shall try to see you before I leave for Delhi.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 28

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati, in a letter to Mr. C. H. Hill of the Political Department, Bombay, expresses satisfaction about his visit to Delhi, conveys information about the concerted action of excommunicating the priests faithful to the Ruler by the Brahmins during his absence to Delhi, and shows inclination to proceed legally against the concerned parties.

Kolhapur
Panhala
26th January 1903.

My dear Mr. Hill

I am sorry I was not able to see much of you at Delhi. We were all so busy there. I have to thank you very heartily for His Excellency's kind visit to my camp at Delhi. It was a great honour to me to receive His Excellency and all the Bombay Chiefs in my camp. I am glad I was able to be present at all the functions held there.

I thought you were being worked very hard as to do Mr. Edgerley's work also. I hope your old complaint of sore throat did not trouble you again.

I arrived here on the 25th instant and found during my absence the B. had been taking concerted action. They have excommunicated the priests that came over to my side and gone to the height of preventing them from taking water even at the public pipe. In consultation with Col. Ferris I am taking advice of a good barrister in Bombay and if so advised I shall proceed legally against the parties because I only wish to prosecute them and not persecute them as they may try to make out. Rajopadhye's appeal is now before Col. Ferris. I learn that such appeals were rejected at Gwalior, Baroda and Dewas. I am now however making inquiries about Dewas and Gwalior more particularly.

I am going to Kolhapur to receive Lord Playfair who is giving us a flying visit. My Palace is full of infection and I do not know where to put up my duty to see H. R. H. Duke of Cannaught off. I shall come to Bombay for the purpose.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 29

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati conveys to Mr. Edgerley of the Political Department, Bombay the manner of agitation carried out with great force through an English Paper at Madras by the Brahmins since Rajopadhye's application is now pending before Col. Ferris, the Political Agent.

Panhala
1st February 1903

My dear Mr. Edgerley,

I am sorry I could not write to you since my arrival from Delhi. I hope you have completely got over the effects of the cold there. We had a most busy time there and I am glad to return to my capital and to have a few quiet days. The plague however has broken out in Kolhapur and the town is now almost empty. I have come here with my family. We have to make great efforts in keeping this place free from infection.

The Brahmins are as busy as ever. They are now agitating at Madras. They have caught hold of an English paper at Madras and are publishing all manner of lies. This was but expected. They are however moving out with great force at this time as the Rajopadhye's application is now before the Political Agent. It is not yet decided but we hope to have the decision very soon. Their further plans will all depend on the result of this application. I am sending you separately a copy of the writing of the Madras journal above mentioned. I am only amused at the cock and bull stories they invent.

I think it my duty to see H. R. H. the Duke of Cannaught when he leaves Bombay and hope to see you there.

Kindly remember me to Mrs. Edgerley.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/-Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 30

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati thanks Mr. Edgerley of the Political Department, Bombay for his continued support, conveys information about the severity of disabilities imposed on the small minority of Brahmins who are openly on the side of the King, and states that for the present he is quietly waiting.

Panhala
7th Feb. 1903.

My dear Mr. Edgerley,

Please excuse me for not replying to your letter at once as for the references I have no idea as to what is exactly wanted. I am coming there about the 17th instant and shall be able to speak to you personally in the matter. I really feel most grateful to you for your kind support. But for it I should have had to climb down from the position I have taken. I hear that the Poona party are working both ways. They will first try their usual weapons of agitation and failing that they will propose a compromise. There is at present a small minority of Bs. that is openly on my side. But they would not brush even that as they are afraid it might sow the seeds of a permanent fracas in their community. They hate that idea so their present plan seems to be if the worst comes to the worst they should give in and any how make up the differences. As it is the feelings between the parties are greatly strained. The Bs on my side are not allowed even to take water from the public pipe. If any relation of them dies even the obsequies are not allowed to be performed by the survivors. Some Bs actually came to me and said that the present strained feelings are not at all desirable but I plainly told them that it could not be helped so long as they wanted to rule me.

For the present I am quietly waiting.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 32

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati writes to Mr. C. H. Hill, of the Political Department, Bombay about the state of affairs in Kolhapur over the Vedokta Question and opines that the Brahmins are simply awaiting the result of the Rajopadhye's application to the Political Agent.

Camp Raibag
February 11th 1903.

My dear Mr. Hill,

I read with great pleasure your kind letter dated 30th ultimo. I have come here for a few days visit to this place. I thank you most sincerely for your kind advice. I am quite firm though some time there are some overturus from the other side. They speak of mediation and generally there is a tall talk of unity being strength.

They say they dislike very much the present split in their own camp and also between Bs. and the Marathas. That is all very fine but there is no definite proposal. I know they are simply awaiting the result of the Rajopadhye's application to the P. A.

The case is very strong and we have every hope that it will be decided in our favour. They are going to propose a compromise. I had a mind to start for Bombay on the 16th instant and I wrote to that effect to Mr. Edgerley.

But it seems that Their Royal Highness are not leaving for England till the 26th instant.

I am sorry I cannot afford to be away from my State so long owing to my recent trip to England and Delhi. I have heavy work to clear off. I would rather like to be present at the pier and personally to wish bon voyage to their Royal Highness as I consider that more courteous and respectful. I am therefore coming there about the 24th instant. If you approve of this kindly inform Mr. Edgerley of the change in my plan. If you however think otherwise will you kindly oblige me by writing or telegraphing me to that effect to my Raibag address.

Please remember me to Mrs. Hill.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 33

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati informs Mr. Edgerley of the Political Department, Bombay that one of Tilak's confidential agents came to Kolhapur and met Rajopadhye and that some local pleaders and Prof. Vijapurkar are helping Rajopadhye in his case against the Durbar.

Panhala
14th March 1903.

My dear Mr. Edgerley,

Since I came from Bombay I inquired about Kumbhojkar & we induced him to obey the summons as the plague in Poona was not so bad now & as he seemed quite healthy & therefore he had no reason to evade the summons any longer. He consented to go very unwillingly. In the meanwhile one of Tilak's confidential agents came here & he is said to have tried to dissuade him from giving. I hear he was helped in doing so by some of the local pleaders & Prof. Vijapurkar. They sent him to me here just to find out whether the Diwan was doing things without my order. I spoke to him quietly but firmly that there was now no reason for him to avoid the summons as Poona was much better & he also was not seedy. I told him that he should not put government to inconvenience, trouble & expense for nothing & that he was not such a big man. He did not seem to relish the idea. However he has expressed his willingness to go & I hope he will be present tomorrow at Poona when the case comes on for hearing.

Another thing that I learnt only today is that they are making some capital out of these circumstances that as it seems to be their intention to make out that their witness is influenced by the Darbar therefore they will have nothing to do with him. Let us see what they do.

Plague seems to be going down.

With kind regards,
Believe me,
Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 35

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati informs Mr. Edgerley of the Political Department, Bombay that his difficulties with the Brahmin community are getting worse, that the Swami at Sankeshwar has illegally adopted a disciple with the backing of Mr. Natu of Poona and that the Shivaji movement has again raised its head and has spread even into the Peta towns.

Panhala
2nd May 1903.

My dear Mr. Edgerly

I read in the papers that you are going on leave. I do not know if I shall be able to see you at M'war. May I request you kindly to visit my capital during your leave and give us the pleasure of your company for a few days. I should consider it an honour if you could do so.

I have just returned from my shikar trip. We were lucky enough to bag two tigers.

I am very sorry that after all, Kumbhojkar did not appear before the court. No doubt he is dreadfully afraid of Tilak. I learn he has said so to his friends. He thinks that he will be injured bodily if he dares to go against that party. Of course such things are difficult to prove. Kumbhojkar has absconded from my State. I am tracing his whereabouts and as soon as I find him out again I shall get at him.

My difficulties with the B. community are getting worse. The Swami of Shankeshwar has illegally adopted a disciple and the Natu of Poona who is his creditor is backing him up as he knows that he has taken mortgage property of the nature of trust. But of this I shall write to you more hereafter.

I am very sorry that the Shivaji movement which was silent for some time has again raised its head. The papers have been moving the people to more vigorous and combined action. I am sending for your perusal a cutting from one of the local papers here. I am simply watching the movement to find out if there are any mischievous spirits in it especially as the movement has spread even into the Peta towns.

With kind regards.
Believe me.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/-Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 39

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati in a letter to Mr. C. H. Hill of the Political Department, Bombay gives information about the roles of Mr. Setlur, the Bombay Barrister, and Mr. Parasnis in the Vedokta Matter, the new compromising attitude of the Jagadguru of Sankeshwar and the outcome of the talk with Mr. Natu of Poona. The letter reveals the firm determination of H. H. Shahu in the case of the Jagadguru of Sankeshwar.

Kolhapur
27th June 1903.

My dear Mr. Hill

After I wrote to you this morning Mr. Jadhavrav, Assistant Divan, showed me a letter written to him by Mr. Setlur, a Bombay Barrister. I enclose herewith the letter for your perusal. You will see from it how boldly he accuses him of being prime mover in the V. matter. Evidently Mr. Setlur seems to have deeply interested himself in the matter.

Even Mr. Parasnis who seemed to take a fair view of the matter appears now not to be an exception to his B. Caste.

There are likely to be two parties here among the B. Community. That is however on a different point, and as against me they are one; but we hope that one party may perhaps come over to our side as they may require our help. The Jagadguru of Sankeshvar seems to come round. He also is seeking compromise and will be ready to apologise.

I think this is the outcome of the talk between me and Natu. The latter must have told him how strong my reasons were and how determined I was.

They are now I think gradually seeing their position in its true light.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/-Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 41

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati expresses satisfaction to Sir William Lee Warner about the return of Mr. C. H. Hill to the Political Department of Bombay as the latter used to give sound advice in the Brahmin's case and the general policy towards Brahmins and conveys about his confidence in dealing with the Brahmins who are slowly losing power.

Kolhapur.
1st July 1903.

My dear Sir William Lee Warner

I am very thankful to you for your kind letter. I am glad for the present there are no troubles. The monsoons have set in regularly and if the locusts do not come in we have hopes of a very good season. I am really very glad that Mr. Hill has come back to our Presidency. I hope he may not have to revert as you know he is well acquainted with the politics of this part of the country. For myself I have benefitted very much by his sound advice in the Brahmins case and the general policy to be followed with those people. I now feel much stronger in dealing with them and they are losing power. I am also thankful to him for advising me for the Imperial Service Troops. He was the first man to put the idea into my head.

I hope you have a fine season and both Lady Lee Warner and yourself are enjoying very good health.

Kindly give my remembrances to Lady Lee Warner. Please remember me also to your son when you write to him.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 42

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati, in a letter to Mr. Fraser, gives an account of the Delhi Durbar, expresses satisfaction over the Government action in restoring to him residuary jurisdiction over his feudatories, informs about the severity of campaign started against him in the Vedokta Question, conveys his anxiety as the Rajopadhye case is taken up by Setlur, the Bombay Barrister and other Congresswallas, and shows confidence in the following words : "It seems that they are determined not to yield but I am prepared for it."

Kolhapur.
2nd July 1903.

My dear Mr. Fraser

I was delighted to read your letter dated 11th ultimo and very pleased to learn that you have enjoyed your trip to England and on the Continent.

You may have read in the papers of the grand success of the Delhi Darbar. The whole function was most impressive and we all appreciated very much what the Viceroy said on the occasion. The opportunity to see all the Chiefs in our place was fully taken advantage of for myself. I was treated with special honours. Lord Northcote invited all the Bombay Chiefs to my camp. This was resented by some but it seems Govt. was firm in having my position as premier chief established.

You may also have read in the papers of the great favour shown to me by Govt. in restoring to me residuary jurisdiction over my feudatories. I am really very grateful to Govt. and especially my friends Messrs. Edgerley and Hill for this mark of their appreciation of my efforts to administer well.

The Vedokta question is still raging and as threatened in the beginning the Bs. have published pamphlets and written articles in news papers maligning me and my administration and circulating all manner of false reports. I send you separately two pamphlets which have reached me for your perusal. They say more pamphlets will be published and some of them that are already cut are not available.

I am really very nervous owing to the circulation of absolute lies regarding my actions and my anxiety is increased as the Rajopadhye case has been taken up by Setlur and other Congresswallas.

You know what an elaborate machinery they have at their command and how utterly impossible it is to contradict what they give out. It seems that they are determined not to yield but I am prepared for it.

I hope you will kindly let me know the date on which you will land at Bombay as I intend seeing you there.

Please remember me to Mrs. Fraser and the children.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 43

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati, in a private letter to Mr. C. H. Hill of the Political Department, Bombay, gives information about the role played by the Chief of Kurundvad, Mr. Natu and Mr. Chhatre of Belgaum in helping the Jagadguru and sends an account of the Vedokta Movement appearing in a Madras Paper which reveals the wilful lies purposefully circulated by the Brahmins with a view to discredit him.

Private

Kolhapur.
9th July 1903.

My dear Mr. Hill

Many thanks for your kind letter dated 5th instant. I enclose herewith for your perusal a copy of letter addressed to Balasaheb Gaikvad by Mr. Datvadkar a Sardar who holds inams both in my State and British territory. You will see from it that the Jagadguru is being helped by the Chief of Kurundvad assisted by Natu and Chhatre of Belgaum.

I got the accompanying letter from Balasaheb when I was in Bombay after leaving Mahableshvar.

I did not write to you at once about this matter as I thought it proper before doing so to make further enquiries regarding the truth of the report. So I sent Balasaheb Gaikvad to Belgaum to enquire in the matter. He called on Rudragauda who is District Deputy Collector there. He gave the same account of the part taken by those people. He gave further details in the matter.

I also enclose for your kind perusal an account of the Vedokta movement reviewing the pamphlet published by the Madras paper.

It will show you how incorrect are the particulars given therein. Two of them are no doubt wilful lies purposely circulated by the Bs. to discredit me.

I shall send you a copy of another pamphlet called "Kolhapur Confiscations". It contains a deal of rabid writing. It was reviewed by the Bombay Gazette in one of its leaders where Col. Ferris also had his share of abuse.

One G. B. Apte has come here. He was a coworker with Mr. Sathe whom we turned out from here. You may remember that

I talked about this man to you in England. He is the same person who is now Extra Assistant Commissioner in the Central Provinces.

I do not know why his lieutenant has come here now.

He is circulating copies of the book called specimens of justice.

I shall send you by tomorrow's post a copy of it which is with my personal clerk. The book is written in Marathi and you will have to get some of the passages in it translated. They will give you an idea of the self conceit of the Bs. I am afraid I am drawing too much on your kindness in troubling you with such trifles.

With kind regards.
Believe me.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 45

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati gives promise to Mr. Edgerley of the Political Department, Bombay that he will send his remarks on the book in the Vedokta matter and further says that he is very sorry to learn that H. E. is going back to England.

Kolhapur
11th August 1903.

My dear Mr. Edgerley,

I had promised to send you my remarks on the book in the Vedokta matter which you kindly gave me. Most of the papers are with the Asstt. Diwan who has not yet returned. As soon as he comes I shall have the remarks drawn up and send them to you.

We are so very sorry to learn that H. E. is going to leave us. Personally I am much disappointed as I was looking forward very much to Their Excellencies visit to Kolhapur. We have now very pleasant weather and the time was most fit.

I had a very kind letter from H. E. but he says therein that he will not be able to honour us with a visit.

I shall however go to Bombay to say good bye to Their Excellencies then I shall have the pleasure of seeing you all.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 47

In this important letter H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati conveys to Mr. Fraser in England the prevailing position of the Vedokta movement, the increasing impertinence of the Brahmin agitators especially after the departure of Bombay Governor, the mounting ridicule of the caste, administration, etc. of the Kolhapur Ruler, the strong opposition from the Brahmin leaders like Tilak and Gokhale, the firm conviction about the true cause of his fight against the Brahmins, the assurance of support to him from Bombay, Calcutta and England and the just expectation that the decision in Rajopadhye case will be in his favour.

Kolhapur
16th September 1903

My dear Mr. Fraser

I really do not know how to thank you for your kind letter dated 4th ultimo* and the sincere advice contained in it. From the beginning I was doubtful if I should take the step I have taken in the Vedokta matter. I was quite sure that though Bs. would raise a hue and cry and that they have done. What is worse they have set afloat a number of lies and have distributed pamphlets containing them broadcast among people. You have seen some of them and I shall send you a refutation of the false charges made therein. But I cannot certainly stoop to their ways, nor is it possible for me to give in now. I was emboldened to take the step, because I conscientiously believe that I am fighting for a true cause, in which I have assurance of support not only from Bombay but from Calcutta and even from England, of which I learned personally in my talk with different persons when I was there. But now that Lord Northcote who knew everything of the matter is gone I do not know what turn things may take. The Bs. are already jubilant over the matter. They are getting more impertinent than ever. They are making a fun in the papers of my administration, my caste and everything. I hope you will see Mr. Hill there before you return, he will be able to tell you everything about the matter.

Mr. Tilak thinks that his present fall and coming misery are due to the action of the Kolhapur State. So his party is against me. My brother Bapusaheb has boldly got rid of some of the relations of

* Vide Paper No. 44 on pages 96-98 in this Volume-Editor.

Gopalrao Gokhale who were in fact managing the Kagal State so long. So both the parties among Bs. are against us, and also the Bhikshuks (भिक्षुक) who manage religious affairs. For reasons which you may learn from Mr. Hill, the lower office people of the Secretariat Staff have felt offended as I do not fall in with their ways. So you see how matters stand. Even amongst Marathas they have won over some families to their side.

If the Govt. relaxes, however little, their support I am just like a boar turned out of all his covers for pigsticking.

In the former case I had sympathies from all quarters except Col. Wray, but it is not so now. I am solely dependent now on the support of Govt. Being thus surrounded I do not know whom to trust and where to find sympathy and confidence. Your letter was a great comfort to me and I trust you will continue to be so. More when we meet.

Please remember me to Mrs. Fraser and the children. Are they coming with you.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati

P. S. I shall write to you how the Rajopadhye case will be decided by the Bombay Government. I expect in all probability the decision will be in my favour. I shall see you in Bombay on the 31st proximo.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 49

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati informs Mr. C. H. Hill of the Political Department, Bombay about the handing over of the papers in Rajopadhye case by Mr. Edgerley to the Government, the account of his personal talk with His Excellency the Governor and the state of anxiety in his mind over the Vedokta affair.

Kolhapur
9-10-1903.

My dear Mr. Hill,

You may have received my last letter immediately after your arrival there. Since that time I had been to the races. At Poona I met Mr. Edgerley there. He said that he had handed over to Govt. the papers in R. case and that I need not be very anxious about it. I then saw His Excellency. He said that the case would be decided according to its legal merits and translation of the Sanads and this was only a case between R and the State and the B Community had nothing to do with it. That made me very anxious and I said it was not so and the whole community is interested. I then gave His Excellency an account of the whole affair and the support of which I was assured. His Excellency is expected here on the 19th instant.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/-Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 53

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati informs Lt. Col. W. B. Ferris, the Political Agent, Kolhapur and S. M. C., about the complimentary remarks made by the Government on the last Administration Report of Kolhapur State and expresses satisfaction over the Government approval of the action taken by him in the Vedokta question.

Camp : Raibag
31st January 1904

My dear Colonel Ferris

It is really very kind of you to have sent Mr. Jardine's letter and telegram for my perusal. I hope the letter promised in the telegram may be found satisfactory. I feel very grateful to you indeed for the trouble you have been taking in the matter.

Govt. have, I learn from Bapusaheb, made complimentary remarks on the last Administration Report of my State. They have referred also to the *Vedokta* question and expressed their approval of the action taken by me. A word is added I learn also about the feudatories by way of supporting my suzerain rights. This is certainly most satisfactory and I am sure it is solely due to you. I really do not know how to express my gratitude to you for all that is being done to restore the prestige of my State.

I am really enjoying good sport here and I find that the pigs which I have imported from the Kolhapur hills have made a very good progress and I hope they will give very good sport next year.

I hope you will be able to tell me now for certain the date of your son's coming.

Please remember me to Mrs. Ferris and your son also.

You will be glad to hear that my grand mother is going to occupy the house at Chikhali on the way to Panhala.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 55

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati thanks Col. Ferris, the Political Agent, for support given by Ferris in certain cases and remarks that if he had received such support from the beginning of his career the opposition would not have been so strong and audacious and the Brahmins would not have been so overbearing. H. H. further informs that the Brahmin community is being treated more courteously in Kolhapur State than in other States.

EMBLEM

CHHATRAPATI MAHARAJA
OF KOLHAPORE

Raibag
16th October 1904.

My dear Colonel Ferris

I am very pleased with your kind letter dt. 15th instant. The Diwan also explained to me all the circumstances and how you appreciated the whole case. I cannot thank you enough for it. I only wish I had such sympathies from the very beginning of my career I am sure the opposition then could not have been so strong nor so audacious and the papers too would have thought twice as they do in other native states, before passing foolish remarks on the administration. The B. community also would not have been so overbearing as they have now become though I treat them far more courteously than in Baroda, Dewas and other States. But I am sure with your continued support and sympathies they will soon find their own level.

I am sorry to learn your arm is still paining. I hope it will soon be all right. I hope Mrs. Ferris is keeping well.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/-Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 56

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati, in a letter to Mr. C. H. Hill of the Political Department, Bombay, informs that Rajopadhye's appeal will soon go before the Government of India, expresses confidence that the Indian Government will show the same kindness like that of the Bombay Government, and conveys the proposed plan of the Brahmins to make again a grand agitation with a view to show His Excellency that the case has created general discontent everywhere.

Kolhapur
28th February, 1905.

My dear Mr. Hill,

I am very sorry to hear from Bapusaheb that you are still unwell & will have to go to England for change. I very much wished to see you & intended going to Bombay direct from Chinchli where I had been for the annual fair. I had a rather nasty accident there. There was a pair of horses for sale. They were very fresh & while I was trying them they bolted & took the carriage to a ditch full of cactus. When I pulled them the reins gave way. The carriage was broken, & I got out with great difficulty. Though I was not much hurt the prickly pear thorns were all over my body. They had to be pulled out. But there are still some that have gone deep in the flesh. They are troubling me & I cannot move about with ease & that is why this letter has been typed for which you will kindly excuse me. I hope however to be well soon & shall then come to see you.

Rajopadhye's appeal will soon go before the Govt. of India. I know the Bombay Govt. have kindly given me full support & I trust the Indian Govt. also will show the same kindness. The papers have again set up a howl & great *khatpat* will go on as usual. I only wish that before you go on leave the memorial may reach the Viceroy as I hear that the other party wish to give time to make again a grand agitation, just to show His Excellency that the case has created general discontent every where. I really regret very much to have to write to you this & disturb you in your illness.

If you are still not quite well please do not trouble to reply.
With kind remembrances to Mrs. Hill.

Believe me,
Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 57

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati informs Mr. Fraser that the things are going on pretty smoothly for the present and that people are anxiously awaiting the final orders of the Govt. of India in the case of Rajopadhye's appeal. His Highness Shahu also reveals the plan of Rajopadhye to win the case by making many false and inaccurate statements as was done by the Chief of Vishalgad and conveys that the Kolhapur Durbar would be officially submitting their remarks for the consideration of the Government of India.

Kolhapur
22nd April, 1905.

My dear Mr. Fraser,

I am very thankful to you for the pistol which you kindly sent to me as a present. I like it very much & I took it the other day to Bombay to know every thing about it. I had been there to see Mr. Hill off & to bid him 'bon voyage'. You may have heard that he has sailed for Australia where he proposes to pass about a couple of months with Their Excellencies Lord & Lady Northcote. He was extremely kind to us & took very keen interest in all matters concerning me & my state. He has done so much to restore my state to its prestige. I can never adequately thank him. Things are going on pretty smoothly for the present. People are however anxiously awaiting the final orders of the Govt. of India in the case of Rajopadhye, who has appealed from the decision of the Bombay Govt. If you excuse me I shall take the liberty of mentioning only one thing about it. I have reasons to believe that his memorial may contain many false & inaccurate statements on the strength of which he hopes to win the case just like the Chief of Vishalgad who recently that is about a few months ago succeeded by laying false facts before the Govt. of India but we are officially submitting our remarks for kind reconsideration by the Govt. of India & so I shall not say more about it now.

Let me once for all tell you very candidly that I should be the last to put you in a false position & try to make undue use of my friendship. The only reason why I touched on these official matters is that the decision in the Chief of Vishalgad's case has raised hopes in the case of Rajopadhye.

Please remember me very kindly to Mrs. Fraser.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 58

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati instructs his Diwan R. V. Sabnis, on way to Simla, to communicate to Col. Ferris the message of Lord Curzon that the Government of India will support the Kolhapur Durbar in Rajopadhye's case if the Durbar continues to be strong in the matter.

शिक्का

छत्रपती महाराजा ऑफ कोल्हापूर.

(इंग्रजीमध्ये)

जयभवानि जयश्रिशंकर जयलक्षमि मुक्काम
क्षेम क्षेम क्षेम दाजिपुर
१०-५-५

रा. दिवाणसाहेब यांस

पत्र लिहीण्यास कारण कि आपण सिमल्यास पोहोचलाच असाल.

दिल्लीस असताना कर्नल फेरीस साहेबांचा थ्रु through लार्ड कर्झननि असा निरोप कळविला होता कि "राजोपाध्यांचे कामात आपण स्ट्रांग राहिले असता आमचा सपोर्ट आहे." हि गोष्ट अतिपरायाने व युक्तिने मे. फ्रेजर साहेब यांचे कानावर घालावि. कर्नल साहेबानि पुना ति गोष्ट रिपी (ट) केली व ते असे म्हणाले कि लार्ड कर्झनना हि गो (ष्ट) माहित आहे करिता कशाहि प्रकारचि कालजि नाही.

आपणहि मे. फ्रेजर साहेबाना असे म्हणावे कि आम्हास राजोपाध्याचे केसविषई मुलिच काळजि नाही कारण हि गोष्ट लार्ड कर्झ (न) यास माहित आहे व दिल्लीस असताना कर्झन साहेबानि स्ट्रांग राहील्यास सपोर्ट करू व आमचि पालिसी सपोर्ट करणेची ठरलि आहे. कर्नलसाहेब याना मी विचारले असता त्यानी माझे जवळ हि गोष्ट वरील खरि आहे असे ते कबूल करतिल अशि माझी पुर्ण खात्री आहे करीता ही गोष्ट सुचविण्यास हरकत नाहीं जरूर सुचवावि.

आज लार्ड ल्यामि. गव्हरनर यांचि शिकार फार उत्तम झालि एक वाघ व दोन आश्वेले गावलि.

We are all well and hoping you do the same.

व. का. लि. लो. क. सही मोडी शाहू छत्रपति

(संपूर्ण पत्र महाराजांच्या स्वतःच्या हस्ताक्षरात आहे.)

No. 59

H H. Shahu Chhatrapati, in a letter to Mr. C. H. Hill on visit to Australia, gladly conveys the news that the Viceroy disposed of Rajopadhye's appeal and upheld the decision of the Bombay Government and states that this decision has relieved him of his anxiety and that its good results are already appearing as Brahmins are coming round.

Kolhapur
31st May, 1905.

My dear Mr. Hill,

I hope you had a pleasant voyage to Australia & had very good time there.

I hope Their Excellencies Lord & Lady Northcote are quite well. By the time this reaches you I think you will have returned to England.

You will be glad to learn that Rajopadhye's petition to the Viceroy has been disposed of & the decision of the Bombay Govt. has been upheld. This has relieved me of anxiety & its good results are already appearing as Bs are coming round.

After all Lord Lamington, I am glad, was able to come to Kolhapur & we had a very good Shikar. His Excellency was accompanied by Sir Archibad Hunter & the party bagged two tigers, two bears and three bisons. I am very happy that they went away quite pleased with their short trip.

Were you able to see any horse up to my weight in Australia ? I hope Mrs. Hill is doing well. Could you ascertain for me if I can get a team of four black mares and a riding black mare for about good height (thousand Rs.). The wheelers must be about 16 hands & upwards.

Please give my remembrance to Mrs. Hill.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/-Shahu Chhatrapati.

APPENDIX-I

GOVERNMENT ORDER RE : OBSERVANCE OF VEDIC RITUAL

ठराव नं. १६९.

मुल्की

मामलेदार पेटा आळते यांस अव्वल हुकूम

दिनांक १२-११-१९०२

गावगन्नानी सरकारी तुळशिची लग्ने व आपटा पूजन व गावातील देवस्थाने यांची पूजा-ऊर्जा वेदोक्त रीतीने होत असतेच. तथापी गावातील सरकारी जोशाकडून सदरहू सरकारी धर्मसंबंधी कृत्ये पूजा-ऊर्जा वगैरे धर्मकृत्ये जोशाकडून वेदोक्त रीतीने जेथे होत नसतील तेथे करून घेणेस हुजूर स्वारीची आज्ञा झाली आहे. तर त्याप्रमाणे तजवीज गावगन्नानी हुकूम देऊन आपण तजवीज ठेवावी. तसेच आळते पेट्यापैकी हेर्ले गांवकर यांस तुळशीने लग्न वेदोक्त रीतीने लावणेस आजचे आज हुकूम देणेत येऊन तजवीज ठेवावी.

सही (मोडी) शाहू छत्रपती

* * *

RAJARSHI SHAHU CHHATRAPATI PAPERS

Volume : IV

(1900 - 1905 A. D.)

(NEW GOVERNMENT POLICIES)

***

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SHIVAJI UNIVERSITY,
KOLHAPUR-416 004.

No. 20

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati informs Sir S. M. Fraser that his request to H. E. Lord Northcote to take Sir Fraser as his companion during his trip to England was not accepted and requests Sir S. M. Fraser to recommend the name of an officer of his choice for consideration of H. E. Lord Northcote as the matter of the selection of a companion has not yet been decided.

Kolhapur
4th September, 1901.

My dear Mr. Fraser,

I returned from Poona Trip on Sunday last. I was glad to receive your kind letter on that day.

I am sorry I was not able to get a positive reply from Government in the matter of a companion, they seem to think that there are difficulties in my getting you. I do not know if I am troubling you too much if I ask you to take three months leave and accompany me. Col. Sealy's name was distantly mentioned. You know that I like him as a political officer and it was partly at my request that he was granted extension, but to be frank with you I would prefer some one from the civil service. I gather from persons who accompanied my father to England that a great deal depends on the lady that manages the household, that is, the wife of the companion, and if Mrs. Fraser was to be entrusted with the arrangement of my brother and myself, will be simply too delighted and let me tell you in confidence that we do not expect Mrs. Sealy to be equally kind.

I pressed Lord Northcote, I am afraid, a bit too much to give you and even went the length that I might request you to take leave. I do not know if I have displeased H. E. in doing so and have therefore now written to Mr. Hill to request H. E. on my behalf to excuse me, if I may have overstepped bounds. I have however stuck fast to my request and having proposed five names have asked H. E. to let me have anyone of them. H. E. said that three of the five persons namely Messers Jackson, Shepherd and Boyd were out of the question, so I have requested that I might have one of the remaining two.

Will you kindly let me know the name of the gentleman you would recommend so that I may mention it to H. E., failing all. I have written to Mr. Hill that I shall give a final reply on hearing from him in this matter.

You know Mr. Mcneil is on leave. Do you know his address.

Please remember me to Mrs. Fraser,

Yours Sincerely,
Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 24

In a personal letter to Sir Fraser, H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati informs about the appointment of Col. W. B. Ferris as the new Political Agent of Kolhapur, conveys that Col. Ferris has shown readiness to accompany him during his trip to England for his sake with a view to fulfil the old desire of his father, and expresses a hope that the selection of Col. Ferris will be happy if the latter did not listen to gossip.

Panhala
30th November, 1901.

My dear Mr. Fraser,

It is a long time since I had the pleasure of writing to you. You may have read of the retirement of Col. Sealy and the appointment of Col. Ferris as his successor. The latter was in Kolhapur for nearly seven years and altogether he has put in more than a dozen years' service on this side. So he is well acquainted with people here. He knew my father very well and we have had very pleasant interviews since he came. We talked of old days. He remembers me and my brother as boys playing with his son and tells me what my father used to say to them. They had he says a talk about my trip to England and it was my father's desire that he should accompany me. He seems for my sake to be willing to do so even now. I told him I should be very happy to have him but I had already proposed some names to Government in Council and had not heard from them in the matter. I am now going to Bombay next month and hope to settle everything with H. E. there. I do not know if you are available as the Maharaja there is not going.

I am glad that I did trouble Government as you advised about the new P. A. Though Col. Ferris knows many persons here, if he listened to no tittle-tattle I think his selection will be a happy one.

Please remember me to Mrs. Fraser.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,
Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 30

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati informs H. E. Lord Northcote, Governor of Bombay, his acceptance of the invitation to attend the coronation of H. M. the King Emperor and his intention of visiting some European Countries on his way back from England to India.

My dear Lord N--

Your Lordship may have been in receipt of the Xmus card sent by me last week. I am one of the few princes as Your Lordship may be aware that have been honoured with an invitation for the coronation of H. M. the King Emperor. I have of course accepted the invitation with the greatest pleasure and am looking forward very much to the grand occasion. The pleasure is not a little enhanced by the prospect of being able to see my friends and well wishers like Your Lordship was looking out for a suitable opportunity to go to England and none could be better than the present one. The last monsoons were exceptionally favourable to my State and but for the appearance of plague, in some parts, my subjects are quite happy. I may start on my tour by the end of April so as to reach there early in June.

I propose to visit also Italy, France, Germany, Austria and Turkey and shall take some of the countries on my way back. I am sorry I cannot afford to be long absent especially as the rainy season of late has become extremely fitful and one never knows what may come next year. Let me however hope for the best.

I hope Your Lordship and Lady Harris have been keeping excellent health. My brother, wife, and children are all doing well.

With kind regards and remembrances to Lady Harris.

Believe me.

Yours Sincerely,
Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 31

H H. Shahu Chhatrapati, in this incomplete letter written to Sir Claude Hill of the Political Department, Bombay, expresses satisfaction over the decision that Hill would accompany H. H. during his tour of England, and assigns to Sir Hill the important work of finding out during this tour a competent University man from England to accept the Principalship of Rajaram College at Kolhapur in place of Principal Adair who is considered not suitable for the post. H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati also shows his extreme keenness to select a suitable Principal in England itself and to bring the new Principal with him to India. In addition, H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati states that the new Principal should be able to teach English, should remain in Kolhapur for five years in the scale of Rs. 600-800 and should mind his business and leave political matters alone.

6-1-1902

My dear Mr. Hill,

My last letter may have reached you by this time and I hope you have now rallied and are quite well again. I hope you approve the programme of my tour and will be able to join us at Brindisi as settled. I am looking forward very much to our enjoying the trip in your company. I am rather anxious about the college here. You know, Mr. Adair's time expires in October next and though he is a thorough gentleman, I must candidly say, he is not quite the sort of man for the principalship of a college here. I would, therefore, if possible, enter into an agreement direct with a competent university man from England. In making a selection, I, of course look up to you and Sir W. Lee Warner for help as you both know what qualifications are needed especially in a person who has to serve in a native state administered by its ruler. I want a man who would mind his business and leave political matters alone. He should be able above all to impress on the minds of his charge sentiments of loyalty and respect for authority. The present generation I believe, requires a rather careful looking after in this direction. I am writing this to you now so that you may be on the look out and be able when time comes to recommend a suitable person to me. If possible I should like to see him in England and bring him with me to India. Perhaps he may be of use to us there. His pay here will be 600 Rs. rising to 800. I want him for five years. His forte must be English as we already have men to teach other subjects.

(incomplete Letter)

No. 34

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati expresses to Sir Claude Hill of the Political Department, Bombay his anxiety about medical examination and question of residence in connection with his trip to England. In addition, H. H. makes a pointed reference to the precedence question and hopes that it would be settled on the basis of the established fact that the Kolhapur State, even though comparatively small in revenue and area, ranks higher than any Maratha State in India, as it represents the direct line of the founder of the Maratha Empire.

Kolhapur
10th January, 1902.

My Dear Mr. Hill,

I got your kind note from Aden after my last letter to you was posted. The doctor certainly did well interrupting our talk and your fast improvement is no doubt due to such anxious care taken persistently by those about you.

I am looking forward very much to my trip and only wish that every thing should pass without a hitch. I have selected a small party and it is my desire that they should all be able to accompany me. Medical Examination they say if necessary from Bombay on the P & O Company's Steamer is very strict and persons are detained showing the slightest symptoms of fever. I have no objection if necessary to keep my people under medical observation in Bombay for about a couple of weeks before we sail. But I should be very sorry indeed to have to leave anyone of them behind merely if they chance to suffer from any slight ailment, at that time. I am also enquiring through the Political Agent in the matter and make no doubts that every facility will be given to us.

I am afraid I have not made myself clear in my last letter as to what I mean by the precedence question. You know that Kolhapur represents the direct line of the founder of the Maratha empire though comparatively small in extent and revenue, it ranks higher than any Maratha State not excluding Gwalior, Indore and Baroda. Of course at present these States owe no allegiance to Kolhapur but until recently Thailis addressed by themselves to the Kolhapur Gadi were always concluded in terms befitting the old relationship of Master and Servant. However I need not say much on the point as I am confident the decision of the question is in proper hands and the interest of Kolhapur will not be lost sight of.

In my last letter, I wrote to you rather vaguely about the question of residence. I should have let you know precisely what my people here think in the matter but as I hear, the question of residence may not at all crop up, I would not trouble you at all about it.

I am sorry I have to typewrite this letter as my right hand was badly bitten by one of my dogs and the wound has not yet quite healed.

With kind remembrance to Mrs. Hill.

Believe me,
Yours sincerely,
Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 44

In a personal letter, H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati seeks the advice of Col. Ferris, the Resident of Kolhapur, in the matter of sending an appropriate reply to Lady Jenking regarding her desire to visit Kolhapur for Shikar Sport.

My dear Col. Ferris,

I got your note last evening and again thought over the matter. I am only afraid that by saying no to her, I shall be wanting in courteousness due to a Lady of Lady Jenkin's position. I have promised her last year and it is nearly a month since I have received her last letter and I have not answered it as yet.

Please think over all these matters again and let me know your opinion in the matter. As you know all the English etiquettes so well, I am ready to follow your advice in this matter. If I have to say no at all to her, let me know in what way I should say it.

No. 45

Sir Alfred E. Pease, a distinguished member of British Parliament, conveys at the end of his visit to Kolhapur his thanks to H. H. Shahu Maharaj for the gift of tiger skin and for the gesture of allowing to use Maharaja's Saloon Car for their rail journey to Poona.

Sajekothi
Panhala
March 31st 1902.

My dear Maharaja,

I do not know how to thank you sufficiently for your handsome present to Mrs. Pease & myself of the magnificent tiger skin. It will always remind us in our home of our pleasant days in Kolhapur, Dajipur & Panhala. I hope the next time you see it may be in England under our roof.

I must also thank your Highness for yet another great kindness to us in giving us the use of your Highness Saloon for our journey to Poona which will make our journey a very luxurious one.

I beg to remain,

Your Highness's sincere friend
Sd/- Alfred E. Pease,

No. 49

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati informs Mr. S. W. Edgerley (of the Political Department, Bombay) regarding his plan to visit Mahabaleshwar to see H. E. the Governor of Bombay and the members of the Council, conveys his anxiety about his visit to England and expresses his deep concern over the prevailing strained relations with the Brahmins.

Panhala
26th April 1902

My dear Mr. Edgerley,

I do now know how to thank you for your kind letter dated 21st instant and the sincere advice it contains. I have made up my mind to run down to Mahableshwar & see His Excellency & yourself & the members of Council before I sail. I propose to be there on the 30th instant & shall leave there on the 2nd. Since I have got my powers, I was never away from my State for such a long time as I shall be now & I am feeling rather nervous as how things may get on in my absence especially under the present strained feelings with the Brahmins. I have requested the Political Agent to fix in consultation with you the date & time of my interview with His Excellency. I need not write more as I shall soon have the pleasure of personally seeing you & talking over different matters. With kind regards.

Believe me
Yours sincerely
Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 50

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati informs Mr. S. W. Edgerley (of the Political Department, Bombay) about his plan to see his great grand mother Radhabaisaheb at Lonavala and expresses his desire to discuss personally about the impertinence of the Brahmin class during their next meeting.

Kolhapur
28th April 1902

My dear Mr. Edgerley,

I am leaving here by this evening train.

I am going to Lonavla first to see Radhabaisabeb Gaikwar my great grand mother. I am sending you separately by post a brief account of the Brahmin affair. You will get an idea of the impertinence of the class.

I will talk to you full in the matter, when we meet.

With kind regards. Believe me,

Yours sincerely
Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 51

In a personal letter Mr. W. A. Warkuches requests H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati to extend substantial help to their mutual friend Prince Ranjitsinghji who is proceeding to England with Maharaja Pratapsinghji.

DARIAV MAHAL,
NEPEAN SEA ROAD
May 1st 1902.

My Dear Maharaja Saheb,

I believe you must have received my wire of yesterday requesting you to help our mutual friend Prince Ranjitsinghji who is leaving India on Saturday the 3rd May.

As you know he is badly in need of funds to further his cause. I fully hope you will help him substantially. He would have asked for help from Jodhpur but as he is going with Maharaja Pratapsinghji he has not done so.

He received help from the State annually but lately owing to succession of bad years funds have been in arrears.

Hoping to be excused for the trouble.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,
Sd/- W. A. Warkuches

No. 93

His Highness Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj, in a letter to Col. Sir Wyllie, conveys his impressions about the grand Darbar held in Delhi in January, 1903 and informs that he would send his photographs taken in London directly to Lord George Hamilton.

Panhala
8th March 1903.

My dear Col. Sir Wyllie,

I am very thankful to you for your kind letter dated 6th ultimo which I read with great pleasure. I really wish you could have been present at Delhi for the grand Darbar. It was a magnificent function and most impressive. Such an assemblage of princes under the protection of one power is an event unprecedented in India.

My recent photograph taken by Mr. Vandyla in London reached me only a few days back and I am having it framed locally here and shall be happy to send it to Lord George Hamilton as soon as it is ready.

Kolhapur is bad with plague. So I have removed my family to this fort.

Our season this year has been favourable and the rayats are happy in that respect. I hope the winter there has not been very severe.

Please remember me to Lady Wyllie and with kind regards.

Believe me
Yours very sincerely,
Sd/-Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 97

In reply to Mr. McNeill's letter H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati informs that in case he does not get required information even from the editor of the Indian Agriculturist, he has decided to continue his own experiments in Bee-keeping industry in Kolhapur as there is no single place in India where this industry is taken up seriously.

Panhala
30th March, 1903.

My dear Mr. McNeill,

I thank you very much for your kind letter dated 20th instant.* I know how busy you are in Bombay & you know I never expect a return call when men are very busy.

We have tried our best here to bring up the bees. I am quite sure that with a little more practical knowledge we should have succeeded and it was with that view that I sent Chitnis to see how the thing is actually worked. But it seems there is not a single place in India where the industry is taken up seriously. I have now asked him to see the editor of the Indian Agriculturist & if he fails to get information even in that quarter then we must shift for ourselves as advised by you.

I see in the papers the news sent against the Govt. goes quite to the root & its result is watched with interest by people.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

* Vide Paper No. 95 – Editor.

No. 99

His Highness Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj conveys thanks to Sir Claud Hill of the Political Department, Bombay, expresses his joy over the return of his powers of residuary jurisdiction over his feudatories by the Government of Bombay and assures that he would continue to justify the confidence placed in him by the Government.

Kolhapur,
27th June, 1903.

My dear Mr. Hill,

I have received the Kharita with great pleasure, handing over to me residuary jurisdiction over my feudatories.

I feel that I cannot adequately express my feelings of gratitude for this kind act.

I know this is the result of the very deep interest taken by you and Mr. Edgerley in me. I have written to H. E. Lord Northcote and Mr. Edgerley separately thanking them for this kind act. I am really proud of this fresh mark of the regard Government have for me and it is my earnest desire that I may continue by my act to justify the kindness shown to me and the confidence placed in me by Government.

I have a mind to run up to Poona in order to personally thank His Excellency, Yourself and Mr. Edgerley and the Councillors. I shall do so as soon as I get free.

With kind regards,
Believe me
Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 100

In a letter to Mr. Edgerley of the Political Department, Bombay, His Highness Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj conveys his thanks for the role played by Mr. Edgerley in handing back to him from the Government his powers of residuary jurisdiction over his feudatories and gives the assurance that he would try to justify the favour shown to him by the Government of Bombay.

Kolhapur
27th June, 1903.

My dear Mr. Edgerley,

I was very pleased to receive yesterday from Col. Ferris a Kharita from H. E. the Governor handing me back residuary jurisdiction over my Feudatories with certain reservations.

Col. Ferris came over to me and was very pleased to give me the Kharita personally.

I need not say how deeply obliged I feel to the Government of Bombay for this fresh mark of their kindness.

None could have done more than you have in this matter and I do not know how to express my obligations.

I hope I may continue to deserve the same kindness always at the hands of Government and that I may justify the favour shown to me.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 101

His Highness Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj expresses his feelings of gratitude to His Excellency Lord Northcote, the Governor of Bombay, for handing over to him the powers of residuary jurisdiction over his feudatories and assures that he would try to justify the regard shown for him by His Excellency.

Kolhapur,
27th June, 1903.

My dear Lord Northcote,

I received Your Excellency's Kharita with great pleasure, and I am sending officially through the Political Agent a reply to it. In the meanwhile I take this opportunity of expressing my deepest obligation to Your Excellency for the very great kindness shown by you and handing over to me the residuary jurisdiction over my feudatories.

I shall ever remember with feelings of gratitude this kindly act of Your Excellency and my only wish is that I may continue to deserve and justify Your Excellency's regard for me.

With kind regards,
Believe me,
Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 103

His Highness Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj conveys to Sir William Lee Warner his feelings of joy over the return of Sir Claud Hill to the Political Department of the Bombay Presidency as the latter was the first man to put into his head the idea of the Imperial Service Troops.

Kolhapur
1st July, 1903.

My dear Sir William Lee Warner,

I am very thankful to you for your kind letter. I am glad for the present there are no troubles. The monsoons have set in regularly and if the locusts do not come in we have hopes of a very good season. I am really very glad that Mr. Hill has come back to our Presidency, I hope he may not have to revert as you know he is well acquainted with the politics of this part of the country. For myself I have benefitted very much by his sound advice in the Brahmans case and the general policy to be followed with those people. I now feel much stronger in dealing with them and they are losing power. I am also thankful to him for advising me for the Imperial Service Troops. He was the first man to put the idea into my head.

I hope you have a fine season and both Lady LeeWarner and yourself are enjoying very good health.

Kindly give my remembrances to Lady LeeWarner. Please remember me also to your son when you write to him.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 106

His Highness Shahu Chhatrapati expresses his feelings of appreciation and gratitude to His Excellency Lord Northcote, the Governor of Bombay, on the occasion of his departure to Australia, for his sincere help to the people during the difficult period of famine and plague.

Kolhapur,
12th August, 1903.

My dear Lord Northcote,

I am delighted to read Your Excellency's letter dated 4th instant and sincerely thank you for it and for the kind expressions it contains. I am sure I am expressing what the whole Presidency feels when I say that we never were sincerely regretted the departure of a Governor. During the career of Your Excellency our Presidency had a very quiet and happy time and things went on most smoothly which had not been the case for a very long time. What we most appreciated was Your Excellency's most sincere sympathies for the people and especially those suffering from famine and plague and we shall never forget the great time we had.

I hope heartily that Your Excellency may have the same success in Australia and Your career there will be happy and prosperous.

Kindly remember me to Lady Northcote.

Hoping to see Your Excellency before you leave.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 107

His Highness Shahu Chhatrapati congratulates His Excellency Sir James Monteath on his appointment as the Governor of Bombay and repeats his request to His Excellency to pay a visit to Kolhapur at an early date.

11th September 1903.
Kolhapur.

My dear Sir James Monteath,

Allow me to congratulate Your Excellency on your appointment to the Governorship of this presidency. It is a great honour and we are delighted that it has fallen to you.

Your Excellency when I was in Bombay, said that it was possible that you might visit this part of the presidency. I need hardly say that I am looking forward to your visit and I shall be obliged if I know the approximate date when we may expect you.

We are in want of one more rain and then the crops will be alright. There is no plague here for the present but as rats are dying, we may soon have it.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 111

In this letter His Highness Shahu Chhatrapati recommends to Mr. Clements for his consideration the name of Mr. A. D. Chougule.

Kolhapur
7th December, 1903.

My dear Mr. Clements,

You know what interest I take in the bearer Mr. A. D. Chougule B. A., LL. B. He may have told you all about here. I have asked him to show copies of my recommendatory note to Sir John Muirmackenzie. You can trust him fully.

I was awfully pleased to read your kind letter to him. I am very sorry to lose him as he is one of my tried and trusted officers. Still I do not wish to come in his way. I tried to put him into the Government Revenue Service but failed and should be glad if you take him up. Let me again assure you that you will never repent. He is the sort of man we want.

Yours very sincerely
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 129

In this very significant letter addressed to Lt. Col. W. B. Ferris, the Political Agent of Kolhapur, H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati conveys about his plan to procure plantain fibre yarn from the plantation of Plantain trees on the sides of the rivers in the Konkan area and not in the existing sugar-cane growing area of the State.
Further, H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati makes very clear his policy of giving positive encouragement to establishing Boarding Houses for students of Backward Communities like that of Jains in the State as 'it would go to break off the monopoly of one caste.'

Kolhapur
Thursday
(16.6.1904)

My dear Col. Ferris,

I have seen the plantain fibre yarn, kindly sent by you for my inspection. I had already sent a man to Savantwadi and I now want to find out whether plantain could be grown along side of the rivers in the Conkan districts of my State as the plantation would I think be paying only we could raise the crop on that side. It would not do to supplant costly plantation like sugarcane.

You would be glad to learn that the Jains are building a boarding house for students of their caste and a site has been granted to them near old Dr. Sinclair's house opposite to the Maratha Boarding House. Perhaps you may get a complaint from some people here which would of course be without any foundation. I write this as I think it is most desirable to encourage that community. It would go to break off the monopoly of one caste.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 131

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati, in a reply to G. W. Hair, the Collector of Belgaum, explains the real position regarding the verbal message sent to Herekar at Belgaum and that too about the return of H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati to Kolhapur from Mahabaleshwar.

New Palace
23rd June, 1904.

Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter dated 14th instant.* I think there is some misunderstanding regarding the socalled message by the Patewalla.-Yeksambekar. Herekar's father-in-law was going to Belgaum & having asked for a patewalla to accompany him, one was sent with him & Yeksambekar & the Patewalla were simply told to inform Herekar that I had returned from Mahableshwar to Kolhapur as Herekar had previously been requested by me through my private secretary to see me here any time he may find convenient & as Yeksambekar was going to Belgaum & a patewalla from the Durbar was accompaning him the opportunity was taken to send word that I had returned from Mahableshwar & to remind Herekar of the letter written to him by my private secretary under my orders. Of course no one would ever think of summoning by a mere verbal message by a patewalla a sardar of the position & rank of Herekar. It would certainly be discourteous to do so.

You may perhaps be aware that we were rather anxious to settle Herekar's family dispute if possible amicably and that is why I had asked my private secretary to write to him. It seems however the parties cannot agree. So I do not wish to trouble Herekar in the matter & he need not come here now. Herekar himself has sent me a copy of my private secretary's vernacular note which I enclose herewith for perusal. It would be clear from it that he was not being asked to come by a mere oral message by a patewalla. I am sorry for the trouble you have been put to in the matter.

Yours truely,
Shahu Chhatrapati

To

The Collector of Belgaum.

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* Vide Paper No. 127-Editor.

No. 135

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati requests Lord Harris, the former Governor of Bombay, to secure for him a hunter stallion upto Rs. 3,000/- and expresses the hope that Lord Harris would return to India as Viceroy of India.

Kolhapur
1st July, 1904.

My dear Lord Harris,

I feel very obliged to Your Lordship for your kind letter dated 29th ultimo. We are having excellent rain here & the prospects are for the present cheerful. About the mares, three are in foal and I am sorry the fourth died. I should like very much to have a hunter stallion & if Your Lordship come across a good one which I may ride for a year before turning it into a stallion I should very much like to buy it for the present. I cannot afford to buy a horse for more than 3000 Rs.

It would be such a pleasure to us all if Your Lordship could return to India as Viceroy & I would humbly express a hope that if the offer is made Your Lordship will not refuse it.

Please remember me to Lady Harris.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 141

This is the detailed reply sent by H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati to the important letter of 27th April, 1904 (vide Paper No. 121) issued by Lord Curzon, the Viceroy and Governor General of India, eliciting the views of the Indian Chiefs on the future of the existing scheme of Imperial Service Troops. H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati conveys his acceptance of the important principle of obligation of Indian Chiefs to contribute proportionately towards the cost of Imperial Defence and at the same time makes it clear that a uniform percentage should not be made applicable to all States. Further, H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati frankly suggests that the percentage of contribution should be calculated not on the gross revenue as indicated but on the net revenue of a State arrived at in a definite manner, and firmly maintains that a maximum and minimum percentage should be marked out so that a State can contribute a particular percentage according to its means. In addition, H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati conveys his agreement with the two subordinate proposals put forward by the Viceroy.

Kolhapur.
13th July, 1904.

My esteemed friend,

I am in receipt of your letter dated 27th April, 1904 and thank Your Excellency most cordially for it. I really consider it a great honour to be among the recipients of your confidence and deem it a privilege that I am one of those invited to give a frank and full expression of their views upon a question of such vital importance as the obligation of Native Chiefs to contribute towards Imperial Defence. The matter has engaged as Your Excellency may be aware, my most earnest attention for a long time and since receipt of Your Excellency's letter I have had the advantage of discussing it with an officer of such long and varied experience and genuine sympathy for Native Chiefs, as Colonel Ferris.

I do not think that there could be any disagreement regarding the principle involved in the first part of the first question raised in Your Lordship's letter. Unquestionably the Native States share in the blessings of peace and prosperity which under the Aegis of the British power are vouch safed to the British subjects. That they do not bear anything like their fair share of the burden of Imperial Defence is also equally clear. No one will, therefore, fail to recognise

the obligation of Native Chiefs to contribute towards the defence of the Empire to which they and their subjects are largely indebted for the uninterrupted peace and tranquility they enjoy. This important principle being acknowledged it is possible that there might be difference of opinion as to the mode of giving effect to it.

In Your Excellency's letter the difficulties that may crop up in fixing for all States a uniform percentage of contribution proportionate to the revenues have been more than hinted at and it is unnecessary for me to repeat them. It would seem, however, from Your Excellency's letter that it is not considered objectionable to take the gross revenue of a State as a basis for calculating the percentage of its contribution. But I am respectfully of opinion that such revenues, in as much as they include alienations, debts, deposits and other items of adjustment, might furnish unreliable data in most cases. It is hardly necessary to cite specific instances but even a superficial comparison of the figures representing alienations in the different States, will be enough to show that gross revenues are not a correct index to the material condition of a State. Its capacity to bear new burdens could not therefore be accurately gauged by them, unless indeed it were contemplated to levy a fresh cess on all aliences. The idea of adopting such a measure will of course have to be looked at from all points of view before letting it develop. With respect therefore to the main part of the first question I am decidedly of opinion that in all fairness and equity all Native Chiefs should bear a proportionate burden of the cost of Imperial Defence. But as regards the minor issues involved, viz. whether the percentage should be calculated on the gross revenue and if so what percentage I humbly think it would not be advisable to fix an unvarying percentage nor to base its levy on the gross revenues of a State. Only the net revenues of State should in my opinion be considered in calculating the percentage. By net revenue I mean the income of a State exclusive of all inams, whether of lands, villages, or cash allowances and whether of the character of Saranjams, Devasthans, (Temple Grants), Dharmadaya, (Charitable gifts) Vatans service inams or gifts for services rendered. It would also exclude what is given by the State to the paramount power in the shape of *Peshcas* military contribution and c. Debts. Deposits and items of mere adjustment or double entry would of course be excluded. The percentage might I think be calculated on the net revenue thus arrived at. As observed above I do not think a uniform percentage should be made applicable to all States. It is well known that some States have greater administrative expenses than others, though comparisons are invidious I can say without hesitation that Rajputana and Kathiawar States are in different circumstances from, for instance, the States in the Maharashtra. The

former form compact groups by themselves, their territories not being much interlaced with British Districts. The result is that their administration is naturally in a comparatively backward condition, such is not the case with States bordering on and intermixed with British Districts. They have to perform to maintain a high standard of efficiency and make efforts to rise to the high level of the neighbouring British Territory. Some States again owing to the long and continuous minorities of past chiefs have had the advantage of being under British supervision extending in some cases over half a century. The rulers of such States inherit no doubt the rich legacy of an efficient administration. It of course means well organised and well equipped departments of States manned by well paid officers and well remunerated subordinate staff. Good roads, tanks, buildings of public utility, upto-date medical and educational institutions are all inseparably connected with it. The cost of maintaining this high level of efficiency, however, is naturally great and such States could ill afford to pay as high a percentage as others not similarly circumstanced.

I hope I may be pardoned if I take the liberty of citing the instance of my own State as it illustrates in a striking manner what has been said above. Its territory borders to a large extent on the British Districts and is in parts interlaced with it. It has been under the direct supervision of the British Govt. almost without intermission close upon half a century and the subjects have become used to a high standard of efficiency which has to be maintained and is indirectly enforced by close proximity with the well administered British Districts. My State in extent is smaller than an advisory collectorate. Yet it has to spend between 3 and 4 lakhs on public works. I am informed that even Indore with its big revenue till recently used to spend only about 2 lakhs and a half on this item. In the same way the expenditure on medical and educational departments has reached very high figures that will compare very favourably with any big State like Indore. To treat States like this as if they were on the same footing with the comparatively backward States in Kathiawar or Rajputana would hardly be equitable. In these circumstances the only course that suggests itself to me is to fix a maximum and a minimum percentage with the sufficiently wide range to allow of the different States contributing different percentages according to their means due regard being had to their administration charges. What these percentages should be I am not in a position to suggest. Those who are acquainted with the above mentioned details regarding the various Native States will be better fitted.

The second question which has to be considered is what is the best mode of converting the above principle into practice i. e. whether the contribution should follow recognised lines or assume

different shapes. The features which the present system of voluntary contribution has spontaneously developed indicate with a fair degree of accuracy the direction that commands itself to most of the Native States. A contribution in specie as Your Excellency has rightly observed would not be palatable to the Chiefs. The system moreover is open to the very grave objection of the possibility of its taking away in some degree from the personal interests of the rulers in a measure of Imperial Defence. Such a result is by no means desirable.

The present system of contribution in the shape of requirements of infantry, cavalry, transport and c. keeps alive the interests of the Chiefs in the empire and goes a great way towards fostering in them the healthy sentiment of identity with the Imperial interests of the paramount power. They also feel free to choose their own mode of contribution and in doing so are able to consult the conveniences of their States. It gives them an opportunity of utilizing and at the same time, providing a welcome outlet for, the energies of the best elements in the population has been aptly said in Your Excellency's letter. Further the suggestion made in Your Excellency's letter that from States relatively poorer smaller units than an entire regiment or a complete corps could be accepted removes in most part the difficulties in the way. Nor is there likely to be lack of efficient officers for the regiments. The Imperial Cadet Corps will ably supply the want. If such smaller units are complete in themselves and self contained, it will I think be all that is deserved. In discharging the obligation, therefore, of contributing towards Imperial Defence the system that is at present in a process of evolution appears to me as by far the most suitable. The absence of personal experience precluds me from hazarding any definite opinion regarding the weak points of the existing system of voluntary contribution.

There are two subordinate proposals contained in Your Excellency's letter. The first aims at securing that high degree of efficiency in the Imperial Service Troops which is necessary to bring them on a level with the well disciplined and thoroughly drilled British armies. The performance of local duties by the Imperial Service Troops may in some degree go to impair their value as effective units, when they take the field. But it would be possible to minimise the evil by resorting to means suggested in Your Lordship's letter. Service by turns on the frontier and frequent intercourse with British Troops in their camps of instruction or manoeuvre and the offer of suitable prizes, cups or shields for free competition among the regiments of the British Army and Imperial Service Troops, are sure to instil a spirit of healthy rivalry and keep the I. S. T. upto the mark.

The second subordinate proposal sets forth the need of forming a Reserve of men who have passed through ranks that they may

serve as a medens to replace the wastage of war. Though I have no personal experience in military affairs I may say that this is obviously necessary and cannot be dispensed with if the I. S. T. are to be called for active service.

I think I have touched on all questions raised in Your Excellency's letter. As desired by Your Excellency I have pondered carefully and anxiously over the important issues they embrace and after discussing them with my advisers and the Political Agent, have set forth my humble views. I am afraid owing to my limited experience in the matter I have not been able to deal with the questions in all their bearings but let me assure Your Excellency that whatever I have put down represents faithfully what I feel and think over the matter.

Again thanking Your Excellency most sincerely for doing me the honour of inviting my views on this important question.

I remain with much consideration,

Your Excellency's sincere friend,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.
Maharaja of Kolhapur.

To

His Excellency the Right Hon'ble.

No. 148

Lt. Col. W. B. Ferris, the Political Agent of Kolhapur, informs H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati that it will not be possible for him to go to Ganeshkhind with H. H. to meet H. E. the Governor of Bombay but requests H. H. to bring him back from Ganeshkhind after the conference is over.

3, Arrival Road.
28, August 1904.

My dear Maharaja,

I have been asked to go to lunch at Ganesh Khind tomorrow so that H. E. can leave a chart with me before Your Highness and the S. M. C. Chief arrival. I cannot, therefore, drive there with Your Highness but shall be very glad if you will bring me back after the conference is over.

Your Highness
sincere friend,
Sd/- W. B. Ferris.

No. 149

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati requests Col. Owen to see that the visit of H. E. the Governor of Bombay to Kolhapur is extended by one more day so that H. H. can conveniently host a State Banquet in the Palace at Kolhapur.

Kolhapur
8th September 1904.

My dear Col. Owen,

I have addressed a letter to His Excellency Lord Lamington requesting him & Lady Lamington kindly to make it convenient to prolong their visit here by one day. I am really very anxious that Their Excellencies should do me the honour of attending a State banquet which I propose to give. According to the present arrangement they are coming here on Sunday & leave the next day in the evening. This gives me no time for the state dinner. I should really feel very obliged if you could arrange His Excellency's tour so as to give us one night. I hope I am not putting you to inconvenience by this request : But as I deem it a great honour to invite Their Excellencies to a state dinner, I have ventured to trouble you by this letter for which kindly excuse.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 151

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati conveys thanks to Sir Claude Hill of the Political Department, Bombay for the long talk in the matter of starting Imperial Service Troops at Kolhapur and expresses a desire to have further discussions in the matter with him on the 29th September, 1904.

Poona.
Civil Lines 112
28th September 1904.

My dear Mr. Hill,

I saw General Beatsow today and a very pleasant talk I had with him.

I had the pleasure of having a long talk with you in the matter of the I. S. Troops long before the idea about starting them at Kolhapur had regularly been put forward and it was owing to those long discussions that I have been able to take the present view of the matter.

I wish to have some further discussion with you in the same connection. I shall therefore be much obliged by your kindly letting me know what time tomorrow would suit you best.

I must go tomorrow evening to prepare for H. E.'s arrival.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 152

James Mackenzie, Member of Council, Bombay expresses sorrow to H. H.Chhatrapati for not meeting him on two former occasions and now wishes to see H. H. on Sunday at 3.45 p.m.

MEMBER OF COUNCIL BOMBAY
SEAL

1 October 04

My dear Maharajah,

I am exceedingly sorry to have missed Your Highness when you called on two occasions. On the first I was with Mr. Jenkins, and it was my servants mistake that I was not told you had come. If they had told me I should have come over at once, as I can see Mr. Jenkins at any time. On the second I imagine I was at the Conference. Anyhow I shall be delighted to see you on Sunday at 3-45 p.m. I always like to see you whenever you come whether there is anything particular to talk about or not.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/-
James Mackenzie

No. 153

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati sends to Mr. DuBonley of Bombay an old album containing Kolhapur views as a momento of his visit to Kolhapur.

New Palace
3rd October 1904

My dear Mr. DuBonlay,

I send by bearer an old album containing Kolhapur views. I hope you will kindly keep it as a momento of your visit. I hope you will like it.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 154

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati congratulates Mr. Edgerley of the Political Department, Bombay for his promotion as a Member of Governor's Council, expresses satisfaction for the continued interest taken by Mr. Hill and Mr. Edgerley in Kolhapur State matters, and requests Mr. Edgerley to help him in finally settling the question of residuary powers of Kolhapur over its feudatories.

Kolhapur
22nd October, 1904.

My dear Mr. Edgerley,

Let me offer you my most cordial congratulations on your promotion to the Council of H. E. the Governor & I sincerely trust after the retirement of the Hon'ble Sir James Monteath you will be confirmed as Councillor.

Let me tell you that I was really afraid that you were leaving us & going to Sind as Commissioner as the report went & it was also rumoured that Mr. Hill too was reverting to Calcutta & I was afraid I was going to be without any friend who took interest in me. You both have always been taking the keenest interest in me & giving me the benefit of your kind advice. You may remember before you went on leave you said that by & by the residuary jurisdiction business will be settled according to my views. The question is now reopened & I am really delighted that you have come at a time when it will be finally decided. I hope you will kindly help me through it.

I hope you had a very pleasant time in England and both yourself & Mrs. Edgerley have benefited by the change.

We had excellent rains & all fear of famine is gone. Kindly give my best rememberance to Mrs. Edgerley.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 155

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati informs Maharaja Tukojirao Pawar about his change of residence to Raibag due to prevalence of plague at Kolhapur and Panhala, conveys his thanks for sending turbans to his sons and requests him to visit Kolhapur during the winter vacation.

Kolhapur,
23rd October 1904.

My dear Maharaja Saheb,

I read with real pleasure Your Highness' very kind letter which reached me at Raibag we have removed ourselves to that place owing to plague here. Even Panhala is not free this year. So for a couple of months we have to move about between this place and Raibag. The turbans which Your Highness kindly sent for my sons reached them in right time and they very much liked them and I must thank Your Highness sincerely for it. I believe by this time Your Highness is at Ajmir and that the place is quite free from plague. When is the college to close for the winter vacation and can Your Highness come here for a few days ?

We are well and hope you are doing the same.

Yours very affectionately,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati

H. H. Tukojirao Pawar
Maharaja of Dhar.

No. 156

In a personal letter to Sir S. M. Fraser, H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati promises to communicate in due course the price of silver box presented to Mrs. Fraser, informs about the spread of plague even to Panhala and hopes that the report about Fraser's appointment as acting Foreign Secretary is true.

Kolhapur
24th October, 1904.

My dear Mr. Fraser,

Many thanks for the excellent fruits which Mrs. Fraser so kindly sent me. They all reached here in very good condition.

About the silver box I really cannot name the price. The fact of the matter is it was pawned with a jeweller & when I saw it I thought it would be a nice present to Mrs. Fraser so I asked him to secure it for me. He was able to do so after about a couple of months and he has not yet told me the price. As soon as I learn its price I shall let you know. I thought it was a very trifling thing and never for a moment imagined I was putting you into any difficulty.

We have very good crops here. The recent rains having banished all anxiety about famine.

We are having a very bad time with plague as this time even Panhala is infected. I hope Mrs. Fraser is keeping well & I trust the report that has reached me that you are acting Foreign Secretary is true & hope that you may be confirmed there.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 157

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati, in a letter to Mr. Edgerley of the Political Department, Bombay, conveys regret for the misunderstanding created by his letter, expresses pleasure over the visit of H. E. the Governor of Bombay to Kolhapur and extends invitation to Mr. Edgerley to pay a visit to Kolhapur soon.

Kolhapur
24th October 1904.

My dear Mr. Edgerley,

I thank you very much for your kind reply to my letter.

I am really very sorry as I did not mean what you seem to think I wrote. Perhaps I could not express myself properly. I meant what you have now written to me in your letter. So I spoke there should be no misunderstanding.

Perhaps I may be able to see you in Bombay in December next.

His Excellency as you know was here & had a very good time. I am very glad that His Excellency went away quite pleased. I wish you were here with him. You have been always putting me off but have never honoured me with a visit and I hope you may do so now.

Please remember me to Mrs. Edgerley.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 158

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati informs Lt. Col. W. B. Ferris, the Political Agent of Kolhapur, about the success of tea plantation experiment at Panhala and requests him to arrange to procure ten maunds of tea seeds for further extension of the plantation programme.

24-10-1904.

My dear Col. Ferris,

This morning I went up to Panhala and was delighted to find the tea planted there in excellent condition. I think our experiment bids fair to succeed. I should like therefore to have a bigger plantation and should feel obliged if you could kindly get for me about ten maunds of tea seeds. As the season for planting tea is very close, will you kindly wire for them ?

The other thing I want to trouble about is about Kaka. It is reported to me from Daman that he is likely to be let off and the Goa Government are not yet in receipt of the extradition warrant. I shall feel much obliged if you kindly wire through the Bombay Government to the Goa Authorities in the matter if necessary.

Please excuse trouble

Yours very sincerely,
Shahu Chhatrapati.

P. S. : Please let me know on what day you will be leaving for the hills so that I may have my programme accordingly as I wish to be here when you go and if you are not going this week I shall leave for Raibag at once.

Yours very sincerely,
Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 161

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati, in a letter to Sir Claude Hill of the Political Department, Bombay, expresses pleasure over Hill's proposed visit to Kolhapur and requests Mr. and Mrs. Hill to extend their stay in Kolhapur so that a short shooting trip can be specially arranged for them.

Camp Chikhli
23rd November 1904.

My dear Mr. Hill,

I read with great pleasure your kind letter. Certainly you are welcome at any time that may suit you and Mrs. Hill.

The time proposed in your letter will be convenient as Kolhapur will be quite free from plague then but I hope you won't give us only a flying visit.

If we but know a few days before you are coming we shall be able to arrange a good programme for you and if possible I should like to include in it a short shooting trip. I hope Mrs. Hill also accompanies you as she will be going for England in April. We are all very much looking forward to your visit.

Please remember me to Mrs. Hill and also give kindly my invitation to her on my behalf.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 162

In a personal letter to Mr. Edgerley of the Political Department, Bombay, H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati expresses his feelings that he is not taking any undue advantage of his kind relations with Mr. Edgerley and requests Mr. Edgerley to continue to extend the same sympathetic attitude towards him.

Camp Chikhly,
23rd November 1904.

My dear Mr. Edgerley,

I am much obliged to you for your kind letter. I know how very busy you are & it is really very kind of you.

I trouble you now & then for which I hope you will excuse me but let me tell you that if you are very busy I would not mind if any of my letters remain unanswered. You have always been extremely kind to me & have helped me always. So I hope you will not think that I take any undue advantage of your kindness by constantly troubling you with letters & trust that you may always continue your kindness to me.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 163

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati informs Sir Claude Hill of the Political Department, Bombay about his plan to pay a private visit to Lord Curzon on his return to Bombay on the 9th December, 1904 and hopes that the question of Imperial Service Troops will now soon be settled by Lord Curzon.

Camp Raibag,
30th November 1904

My dear Mr. Hill,

I learn from the papers that H. E. Lord Curzon is expected to land in Bombay on the 9th proximo. I should very much like to be present on the occasion and personally to offer my congratulations on the recovery of Lady Curzon from a dangerous illness. So if it is not inconvenient to His Excellency the Viceroy I should like to come there by the 9th Proximo.

My visit would of course be of a private nature and no inconvenience would be caused to His Lordship in the matter of return visit as I know very well that His Lordship's stay in Bombay is to be so short.

I hope you also will be there at that time and I shall be able to have the pleasure of meeting you all there.

We are looking forward to the question of Imperial Service Troops being finally settled soon as Lord Curzon will shortly be here.

I think before you leave us every thing about the I. S. T.* will be decided.

Please remember me to Mrs. Hill.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

*I. S. T. denotes Imperial Service Troops.-Editor.

No. 166

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati (Camp : Bombay) informs Shri Balasaheb that he would send his reply in the matter of the valuation and other questions regarding the K. I. Lines after his return to Raibag.

Warden Road,
Mahalaxmi,
10th Dec. 1904.

My dear Balasaheb,

I thank you for your kind letter of today in the matter of the valuation and other questions regarding the K. I. Lines. I am sorry not to be able to reply to it now. I shall however do so immediately on my return to Raibag which I hope you won't mind.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 167

Mollie Ferris conveys thanks to R. V. Sabnis, the Diwan of Kolhapur, for Season's Greetings and on behalf of Col. Ferris extends Good Wishes for the New Year.

Sangli
Dec. 29, 04

Dear Diwan Saheb,

Thank you so very much for remembering us at this season and sending us such a pretty card. Col. Ferris wishes to tell me in sincerely wishing that your coming new year may be filled, with happiness and prosperity for you and your family. We are having it very cold here, night and morning. Thermometer going down to 48° perhaps you have it a cold at Chinchli ?

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/-Mollie Ferris

No. 168

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati makes a personal request to Lord Lamington, the Governor of Bombay, to grant further extension of one year to Lt. Col. W. B. Ferris as the Political Agent of Kolhapur.

(1904 ?)

My dear Lord Lamington,

When I saw Your Excellency at Mahableshwar day before yesterday I am afraid I did not give the correct date of Col. Ferris' expiry of term of office. It is 20th October next and not November.

I have personally explained to Your Excellency my reasons and I need not repeat them again. Last year Your Excellency was good enough to propose an extension of two years and I am to say that owing to technical difficulties one year only was granted but that another year would be given at the end of that period. Similar extension has been given to Mr. Fitzerald and I believe considering the peculiar circumstances under which I have to request Your Excellency for this extension, Government would be pleased to meet my wishes.

I am really very sorry to have to trouble Your Excellency now and then like this but I trust Your Excellency will realise how I am circumstanced and excuse me the liberty I am taking.

No. 171

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati, in a personal letter to Sir Claude Hill of the Political Department, Bombay, expresses happiness for the honours conferred by the British Government on his brother Bapusaheb and his Diwan R. V. Sabnis and extends heartfelt thanks to Sir Hill and Sir Fraser for taking personal interest in this matter.

Camp Chikhli,
3rd January, 1905.

My dear Mr. Hill,

We received yesterday the most welcome news of the distinction of C.I.E. having been conferred on Bapusaheb. Needless to say how highly we appreciated it.

In the same way I learnt that Govt. were pleased to honour my Diwan also. Of course I know that all these honours are due to the very kind interest you have always been taking in us & we really do not know in what words to thank you for this & many other favours that we have been receiving.

No doubt Mr. Fraser's presence at Calcutta has made your work a little light as he also, as you know, takes very great interest in us. Your return to the head quarters here has given him an opportunity of helping us.

We all only pray God that we may ever continue to deserve kindness from you both.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 172

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati expresses to Sir S. M. Fraser his feelings of appreciation for the conferment of the distinction of C. I. E. on Bapusaheb and of the title of Rao Bahadur on R. V. Sabnis and conveys thanks to Fraser and Hill for their personal interest in this matter.

Camp Chikhli
3rd January, 1905

My dear Mr. Fraser,

We got yesterday the most welcome news of C. I. E. having been conferred on my brother. My Diwan also got the title of Rao Bahadur. I need hardly say how highly these honours are appreciated by us. I know that your presence there must have helped Mr. Hill very greatly as he has been taking, as you know, very keen interest in us like yourself.

Such honours have encouraged us all very much.

It is our only desire that we may continue to deserve the kindness & confidence of Government. Please remember me very kindly to Mrs. Fraser.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 175

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati, in a personal letter to Annasaheb Bhosale, Rajesaheb of Satara, expresses his sense of relief to see that Annasaheb could be free from petty debts with the help of the loan advanced by him and extends personal advice to Annasaheb to work under the guidance given by Mr. Lucas.

Camp Rajputwadi
18th January, 1905.

My dear Annasaheb,

Pray excuse the delay in replying to your kind letters. I do not think I have done much. I am however very pleased that you have been able to square all your petty debts from the loan advanced by me. I trust it may help you to put right your affairs & also be free forever from the necessity of seeking usurious Saokars. I was very happy to learn from my Diwan that Mr. Lucas takes the keenest interest in your affairs & has been working heart & soul to set them right. It is hardly necessary for me to say that you will be immensely benefitted if you will but be guided by his disinterested advice : Some persons there may not like it but take my word for it that he will do as he has already been doing every thing for your good.

It would of course give me very great pleasure to see you whenever you may be pleased to come here. You should look upon Kolhapur as your second home & I shall always be most happy to render you any help that lies in my power.

Kindly remember me to Bhau Saheb & with kindest regards,

Believe,
Yours sincerely,
Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 176

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati sincerely conveys heartfelt thanks to Col. Ferris, the Political Agent of Kolhapur, for bringing out clearly the true position of relationship between H. H. the Maharaja of Kolhapur and his feudatories in the matter of exercise of powers of a High Court.

27·1·1905

My dear Col. Ferris,

The Diwan sent me a copy of your letter to the Chief of Vishalgad about his alleged right to exercise the powers of a High Court. The letter clears all doubt in the matter. The feudatories will now understand their true position and there will be once for all an end to all misconception and unpleasantness. I know this is all due to your strong action and the fearless way in which the true state of things was placed before Government. I really do not know in what words to thank you. I am not speaking as a mere form but I say what I do sincerely feel. You know how things were drifted when you came here and I can well imagine how hard it must have been for you to change all that.

Please remember me to Mrs. Ferris and with kind regards,

Believe me,
Yours sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 179

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati, in a personal letter to A. M. T. Jackson, former Political Agent of Kolhapur, conveys that for a few years he will not be in a position to invest in the construction of a feeder Railway line from Raibag and Nipani to Kolhapur and states that the Railway Company will have to find out about the profitability of this feeder line.

Kolhapur
13th February, 1905.

My dear Mr. Jackson,

Many thanks for your kind letter dated 9th instant. I am not sure if a feeder line from Raibag & Nipani might pay its way but probably the company will find that out for themselves. As far as I am concerned I am afraid at least for a few years to come I shall not be able to lay by anything for such investment.

We have also had a spell of cold weather & the plague is still lingering. It has prevented me from going back to my Palace. So I am staying out here about 4 miles from the town.

Will you kindly remember me to Mrs. Jackson.

I may remind you that you have not been able to give us the pleasure of your company here. I have been very much looking for it.

Mr. Mc Neill is here for the case between the two Kagals.

Hoping to be able to have the pleasure of seeing you soon and with kind regards,

Believe me,
Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 182

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati, in a personal letter to Mr. Ferris, the son of Lt. Col. W. B. Ferris, conveys that since the scheme of Imperial Service Troops for Kolhapur is likely to come into operation soon, he has a keen desire to invite Mr. Ferris to join the I. S. T. as its inspecting officer & invites Mr. Ferris to visit Kolhapur for a short shooting trip.

Kolhapur
16th February, 1905.

My dear Mr. Ferris,

I am afraid my last letter sent to you from Raibag has miscarried. Colonel Ferris & I stayed together at Raibag for a few days & I immensely enjoyed the company of your parents. We missed you very much every day & I do hope you may soon be able to come to us at least for a short time. The scheme of the I. S. T. for Kol. & S. M. C. is now almost ripe and when it becomes an accomplished fact, it is our desire that you should be able to give us the benefit of your help because if possible we shall try to get you as our inspecting officer.

We should all be most delighted if we could succeed in doing this.

I hope at any rate you may be able to come here for a little shooting about the end of March.

Col. & Mrs. Ferris are in the best of health.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 185

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati requests the Maharaja of Gwalior to consider the case of Mr. V. V. Wagh of Belgaum for the post of Chief Justice in the State of Gwalior.

Kolhapur
20th February, 1905

My dear Maharajasaheb,

Mr. Vishwanath Vaikunth Wagh 1st class subjudge at Belgaum has been recommended to me as an officer fit to be brought to Your Highness' notice. I personally know nothing about him. He is a Shenvi by caste and has put in more than 23 years in the British judicial service. I am told he seeks employment in Your Highness' State as Chief Justice and it is for Your Highness to see if among the candidates for the place your choice may fall on him.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

To
His Highness
the Maharaja of Gwalior.

No. 186

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati conveys to Lt. Col. W. B. Ferris, the Political Agent of Kolhapur, his feelings of pride over the successful performance of the men of the State Corps and reports about the progress of operation of pulling out thorns which have gone deep into the flesh of his body as a result of an accident to his carriage.

Camp Rajputwadi
28th February, 1905.

My dear Colonel Ferris,

Many thanks for your kind note just received. I read it & its accompaniment with great pleasure. Our Corps is really to be congratulated on the splendid success of the men. I trust we may ever have reason to be proud of them.

I am still feeling stiff & having some thorns pulled out every day. There are still some gone deep into the flesh & I hope in a few days to be all right.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 187

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati gives a detailed description to his former tutor Sir S. M. Fraser about his nasty carriage accident at the Chinchli fair.

Kolhapur,
28th February, 1905.

My dear Mr. Fraser,

Many thanks for your kind letter. I am sorry I could not reply to your letter from Simla as I did not get the necessary information. The man from whom I got the articles has not been here. However I need not now wait for him any more. I can quite understand your position and I should be the last person to put you into any difficulty. I like your idea of purchasing for me in the market there some useful things of equal value. I need not say I should prefer articles that may be of service in shikar. I have to trouble you to calculate the price of the silver things sent from here. I shall have to pay their owner ten annas in the rupee of the weight in rupees of the articles. That should be taken to be the price and things of that value may kindly be bought there and sent to me as suggested by you. The freight and other extra charges if any will be paid by me here.

I had a rather nasty carriage accident at the last Chinchli fair. I was trying a pair of horses there. They were rather fresh and took the carriage to a ditch full of cactus. The reins snapped in my attempt to pull them. The carriage came to grief and I got out without getting much hurt. I was however full of the thorns of the princkly pear. They had to be pulled out though there are some deep imbedded in the flesh. I am feeling very stiff and that is why I had to get this letter typed for which you will please excuse me.

Mr. Hill is not keeping good health and will, I hear, be soon going to England for a change.

Plague has almost disappeared but I am still out in my Rajputwadi Camp.

With kind regards and rememberances to Mrs. Fraser.

Believe me,
Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 188

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati narrates to Mr. Edgerley of the Political Department, Bombay, a detailed account of his recent carriage accident at the Chinchli Fair, and conveys that due to continued operation of pulling out thorns from the flesh of his body, he could not attend the Bombay races and as such could not see Mr. Edgerley.

Kolhapur Rajputwadi Camp,
28th February, 1905.

My dear Mr. Edgerley,

I am sorry I had to miss the pleasure of seeing you during the last races when I had intended to go to Bombay. I had a rather nasty accident at the last Chinchli fair. I was trying a pair of horses there. They were rather fresh & began to pull. The reins gave way & they bolted & took the carriage into a ditch full of cactus. The carriage went to pieces though I could get out without being much hurt. The thorns of the prickly pear were however all over my body & they had to be pulled out. Some nevertheless that went deep into the flesh are still there & are very troublesome. I cannot move freely & so I have to send this letter to you typewritten for which please excuse me.

I shall see you as soon as I am free from the stiffness that has come over me.

We have not much of plague now & I hope shortly to go back to the town.

Please remember me to Mrs. Edgerley & with kind regards,

Believe me,
Yours very sincerely,
Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 189

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati profusely thanks the Maharaja of Bhavnagar for his splendid presents and especially for the most serviceable Shikar Dhamney (i. e. a carriage) and conveys detailed information about his carriage accident which occured recently at the Chinchli Fair.

Kolhapur
28th February, 1905.

My dear Maharajasaheb,

Your Highness' excellent presents have arrived & among them the Shikar Dhamney. It is most serviceable & very ingeniously contrived, We all like it very much. I really do not know how to thank Your Highness for your right royal hospitality & the splendid presents which I shall ever value most highly as Souvenirs of my trip to Bhavnagar.

I am sorry to have to send this letter typewritten to Your Highness as I am feeling so stiff owing to a carriage accident I lately had at the Chinchli fair. I was trying a pair of rather fresh horses. They pulled & the reins gave way & the carriage went into a cactus ditch. My body was full of thorns which had to be pulled out. I was lucky however to get off without any serious injury. Your Highness need not be anxious.

With kindest regards,
Believe me,
Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 190

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati requests Col. W. B. Ferris, the Political Agent of Kolhapur, to arrange in Bombay H. H.s' interview with Lord Curzon, the Viceroy of India for the purpose of including a visit to Kolhapur State in the tour programme of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Camp Rajputwadi,
1st March, 1905.

My dear Colonel Ferris,

I just read in the papers from Bombay received this morning that T. R. H. the Prince & Princess of Wales are arriving in India & will visit some Native States. I have many a time already expressed to you my ardent desire that my State should be honoured by them & I now request that you will be so good as kindly to arrange for my interview with H. E. Lord Curzon when he arrives in Bombay. I need not say that my object in seeking this interview is personally to express to His Excellency my wishes in the matter & how grateful & honoured I should feel if my State could be included in the programme of T. R. Highness' tour in India. I should feel obliged if you also help in this matter with your good offices & let government know how very keen I am on the point.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/-Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 191

This is a telegram from Col. W. B. Ferris, the Political Agent of Kolhapur, requesting the Political Secretary of Bombay Government to arrange in Bombay an interview of H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati with Lord Curzon, the Viceroy of India, in connection with the inclusion of Kolhapur in the tour programme of the Prince of Wales.

His Highness the Maharaja would like to see His Excellency Lord Curzon in Bombay with a view to urging that Kolhapur be included in the tour of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales. Can an interview be arranged, if so will you wire urgent day and hour to enable His Highness to arrive Bombay accordingly.

The above telegram was sent under Col. Ferris signature to the Political Secretary, Secretariat, Bombay. 1.3.05

Sd/-R. V. S.

No. 192

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati requests Col. W. B. Ferris, the Political Agent of Kolhapur, to arrange his visit to Her Excellency Lady Lamington on the day of his interview in Bombay with His Excellency Lord Lamington, the Governor of Bombay.

Mahableshwar
21st March, 1905.

My dear Colonel Ferris,

As you are kindly arranging for my interview with His Excellency the Governor, may I trouble you again to kindly arrange if possible for my visit to Her Excellency Lady Lamington if it is in no way inconvenient to Her Ladyship.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 193

Government Notification announcing the policy of preparation of all pension papers of Government servants strictly in advance of 1 year or 6 months of the respective dates of pension of Government servants.

जाहिरनामा

जनरल खाते

तारीख ३१ मार्च १९०५

नंबर ३३ :- इलाखे मजकुरीं नोकर लोकांस पेन्शनात काढलेचा ठराव होऊन, ते रिटायर झाल्यानंतर त्याचे नोकरमुदतीबद्दल पगाराचा दाखला वगैरे पाहून पेन्शनचा ठराव होणेस बराच वेळ लागतो व त्यामुळे पेन्शनर इसमास पैशाची अडचण पडून जिकीर उत्पन्न होते व वृद्धापकाळी त्याची गैरसोय होते. कंती एक वेळां तसलमात देणेचा प्रसंग येतो व कितीएक मरणही पावतात. असे होणे गैर असल्याने, ज्या नोकरास पेन्शन देण्याचें अगर पेन्शनींत काढण्याचे असेल, त्याबद्दल त्यास तो रिटायर होण्यापूर्वी १ वर्ष किंवा सहा महिने पेन्शनीबद्दल काम चालून, पगाराचा दाखला वगैरे पेन्शन देण्यास लागणारी माहिती तयार करून काम पुरें करून ठेवावे, अशाबद्दल हुजुरून नंबर ६१२, तारीख २८ माहे नोव्हेंबर सन १९०४ इसवीचे आज्ञेत आलें आहे, त्याप्रमाणे तजवीज ठेवावी.

आर. व्ही. सबनीस (इंग्रजी)
दिवाण सरकार करवीर.

No. 196

R. V. Sabnis, the Diwan of Kolhapur, conveys thanks to Col. W. B. Ferris, the Political Agent of Kolhapur, for the timely suggestion to procure a Bungalow in Bombay near the Government House and says that H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati will make necessary arrangements in the matter during his visit to Bombay within a few days.

Kolhapur
12th April, 1905.

My dear Sir,

I beg to return the accompanying letter as desired by the Chief of Kagal who handed it to me. His Highness feels very grateful for the timely suggestion kindly made therein. Arrangement will be made for securing a suitable bungalow when he goes to Bombay as he intends doing in a few days.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- R. V. Sabnis

To

Col. W. B. Ferris,
P. A. Kolhapur & S.M.C.

No. 197

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati invites Lord Lamington, the Governor of Bombay, to visit Kolhapur for a Shikar Trip and informs that the epidemic of plague has completely gone from the Kolhapur State.

Kolhapur
20th April, 1905.

My dear Lord Lamington,

I thank Your Excellency most sincerely for Your Excellency's nice photograph sent to me. I shall always value it most highly as a mark of Your Excellency's kindness.

We have been looking forward very much to Your Excellency's shikar trip here & I hope that a suitable day will soon be fixed & Colonel Ferris who is now there will kindly be informed.

Luckily plague has quite gone down in my State.

Hoping that Your Excellency may be able soon to come down here.

I am,
Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 198

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati earnestly requests H. H. the Rajesaheb of Dewas to spend his next vacation in Kolhapur so that all can have a happy time together and informs that the entire Royal Family has returned to the New Palace in Kolhapur as the epidemic of plague has disappeared from Kolhapur State.

Kolhapur
21st April, 1905.

My dear Maharajasaheb,

I thank Your Highness most sincerely for your kind inquiries about my health. I had been progressing satisfactorily but my late trip to Bombay has again brought on slight fever. I shall have rest now & hope soon to shake off my illness.

I have learned from Mr. Narayan Prasad's letter to my Diwan that Your Highness' College will soon be closed. May I repeat my request to Your Highness to spend greater part of your vacation with us ? We should all so enjoy Your Highness' genial company. To me especially it would be most welcome after the rather unpleasant time, I have had since the late accident. If necessary I shall be happy to write in the matter through the Political Agent to the Hon'ble the Agent to the Governor General or to his first assistant or to Mr. Wadington as you may think proper. I hope Your Highness will kindly send me a line in reply at once so that there should be no delay. I need not say how we all long to see you & I am sure you will not disappoint us.

It is very pleasant here at present. The plague has quite died out & we have returned to the New Palace.

Will Your Highness very kindly remember me to Mr. & Mrs. Wadington ?

With kindest regards.

Yours affectionally,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

To

H. H. The Rajasaheb of Dewas.

No. 199

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati conveys pleasure to H. E. Lord Lamington, the Governor of Bombay, for accepting the invitation to visit Kolhapur on a Shikar Trip and hopes that H. E. will be successful in hunting a tiger and a bear as the conditions are favourable in the jungles.

Kolhapur
28th April, 1905.

My dear Lord Lamington,

I was greatly delighted to receive your letter dated 24th instt. & to learn that Your Excellency intends giving me the pleasure of your company at a Shikar party.

I very much appreciate your kindness in asking me to keep Your Excellency's photograph in happy memory of your visit to Kolhapur.

It would give me greater pleasure if I can get similarly a photograph of H. E. Lady Lamington.

I hope Your Excellency be able to bag a tiger & a bear. We are having good Khabar from the jungles.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/-Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 200

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati invites the Chief of Jath to accompany him on his Shikar Trip to Dajipur and hopes that Col. W. B. Ferris, the Political Agent of Kolhapur, will give his consent to this invitation.

Kolhapur
1st May, 1905

My dear Abasaheb,

I had the pleasure to-day of inviting you personally to accompany us to Dajipur for Shikar & I send you this as a written invitation for you and for your brother. I have also written to Col. Ferris to-day asking for his consent to your coming. I hope he will give it. On hearing from him I shall let you know when you will be my guest.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/-Shahu Chhatrapati
Panhalla.

To

Chief of Jath.

No. 201

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati congratulates the Rajasaheb of Dewas on the successful completion of his college education and on the immediate prospects of his investing with powers to rule the State of Dewas and assures the Rajasaheb that he will make some suggestions in the matter of settling the future course for the Rajasaheb.

Kolhapur,
18th May, 1905.

My dear Rajesaheb,

I was greatly delighted to receive by telegram the happy news of your having pased your Examination most successfully and of your having won prizes. I also received your letter and I am glad to learn that you have finished your college career & are about to be invested with powers. I also see that you are to have a meeting with A. G. G. for settling your future course. You will please write to me the details of your talk with A. G. G. I shall be very happy to learn what it is. I shall also then be able to make some suggestions in the matter.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 202

H. H Shahu Chhatrapati informs Col. W. B. Ferris, the Political Agent of Kolhapur, about the two opening ceremonies performed by H. H. on the 17th May, 1905, viz. the one of a Cotton Mill near Shirol Road Station and the other of a Dharmshala at Narasobawadi.

Kolhapur,
18th May, 1905.

My dear Col. Ferris,

I had a good day yesterday when I had been to Kurundwad. On my way there I performed two opening ceremonies – one of a cotton mill near the Shirol Road Station and other at Nersoba's Wadi of a Dharmashala. I enjoyed the trip very much. The Chief of Jath and his brother had come to see me to-day. I believe at present they are the guests of the Sangli Chief.

I wish to write them as my guest after they cease to be the guests of the Sangli Chief and to take them with us to Dajipur for Shikar if you approve. I think after that there will be enough time for them to go to Mahableshwar.

I am rather sady but I hope to be alright soon.

I hope Mrs. Ferris is enjoying Panhala. Kindly remember me to her.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 203

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati requests Lord Lamington, the Governor of Bombay, to forward the sealed envelope containing his reply to H. E. the Viceroy of India and expresses his regret for not contributing any article to the Princes' Hall.

Kolhapur
4th July, 1905.

My dear Lord Lamington,

I thank Your Excellency most sincerely for your kind letter dated 4th ultimo, enclosing one from His Excellency the Viceroy. I enclose herewith my reply to it in a sealed envelope & request the favour of your kindly forwarding it to His Excellency. I also attach a copy of it for Your Excellency's information. I need not say how keenly I feel that I should not be able to contribute a single article to the Princes' Hall.

I hope Your Excellency is feeling quite well after the late illness.

I am,
Yours sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 208

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati expresses his happiness to Mr. Narayan Prasad for the stay of Rajasaheb of Dhar in Kolhapur with the members of the Royal Family and conveys his deep appreciation to Mr. Narayan Prasad for extending to Rajasaheb of Dhar proper advice and affectionate guidance all these years.

Kolhapur
17th July, 1905.

My dear Narayan Prasad,

I am very glad to learn that you have reached there safe & all are doing well. I hope His Highness Rajasaheb has been keeping excellent health. Let me write to you how delighted we all felt by His Highness' stay here. Let me congratulate you on the winning manners & amiable disposition of His Highness & also his love for reading. All these qualities are no doubt instilled into His Highness by you and are the fruit of your patient & affectionate care & tact. It is not my wish alone but also of my wife & grand mother that you may continue to remain with him and always give him the benefit of your advice & company.

Diwan Saheb asked me to remember him to you & convey his respects to His Highness.

Kindy let me know if His Highness' programme for the next term is fixed.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/-Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 209

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati informs Col. W. B. Ferris, the Political Agent of Kolhapur, that he wrote to Mr. Lucas about the Satara family in good faith as to safeguard its interests and also expresses sorrow for the misunderstanding created by this letter.

New Palace
28th July, 1905.

My dear Col. Ferris,

I am really very sorry that Mr. Lucas should think that I am breaking faith. I have already been informing Mr. Lucas that every thing depends upon the monsoon & the letter that I wrote to Mr. Lucas was a simple suggestion in the interest of the Satara family. You will kindly explain the matter also to Mr. Edgerley that I meant nothing but the good of the family.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 212

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati reminds Col. W. B. Ferris (Camping at Ganeshkhind, Poona) to extend the request to H. E. the Governor of Bombay to pay a visit along with the members of his party, to Kolhapur during 1906.

Kolhapur
5th August, 1905.

My dear Colonel Ferris,

I hope you will kindly excuse me for reminding you to request His Excellency to honour us next year with a visit in company with General Hunter & Mr. Du Bonlay and others of His Excellency's party. They might come here via Ratnagiri if it is convenient.

I shall be glad to arrange for the conveyance.

The rains are still as feeble as before & we do not know how to fill our tanks & wells. In some parts they have begun to fall out the rice already sown owing to want of rain. This has made me very anxious. Heaven knows what may happen if this continues.

Is the Maharaja of Gwalior likely to return again from Bombay?

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

Address on the envelope :

To

Colonel W. B. Ferris,
Political Agent,
Kolhapur & S. M. C. country,
Ganesh Khind,
Poona.

No. 216

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati, in a personal letter to H. H. the Maharaja of Bhavnagar, conveys his thanks for the kind invitation to attend the wedding ceremony of the Maharaja of Bhavnagar and expresses his inability to do so due to prevalence of scarcity conditions in Kolhapur State.

Kolhapur
11th August, 1905.

My dear Maharajasaheb,

I feel as much obliged as honoured by your kindly complying with my request in the matter of Your Highness' marriage. That is just as a friend would do.

The deputation bringing Your Highness' kind message of invitation arrived here yesterday & we welcome it most heartily. Nothing would have pleased me more than to pay another visit to Bhavnagar on the auspicious occasion of your wedding. But I hope Your Highness will kindly excuse me for my inability to do so.

We are in great anxiety owing to want of rain. The supply of drinking water has run short.

I hope you have good rain there & the crops are flourishing.

I hope & pray God that the wedding may prove full of happiness and blessings.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

Address on the envelope-

To
His Highness
The Maharajasaheb of
Bhavnagar,
K.C.S.S.
Bhavnagar.

No. 220

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati reminds Col. W. B. Ferris, the Political Agent of Kolhapur, to arrange a private Shikar Trip of H. E. the Governor of Bombay to Kolhapur on his way back from Ratnagiri to Bombay and informs that the epidemic of plague is again slowly increasing in Kolhapur.

Kolhapur
15th September, 1905.

My dear Colonel Ferris,

Since you left us we have not had much of rain. We are feeling however very hot & it is possible we may have some storm showers.

I am writing this specially to remind about His Excellency's visit for the Shikar trip. If H. E. comes here on his way here from Ratnagiri we shall feel greatly honoured & I believe it will not be inconvenient. You know that a private trip like this does not cost us anything.

The plague is slowly increasing.

Kindly remember me to Mrs. Ferris.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 223

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati conveys thanks to Col. Ferris, the Political Agent of Kolhapur, for the assistance given in the matter of negotiations regarding H. H.'s niece's marriage with the Rajesaheb of Akkalkot.

Camp Rajputwadi
11th October, 1905.

My dear Col. Ferris,

I thank you very much for your kind note and the assistance you are giving me in the matter of my niece's marriage. She is about 6 years old and the Rajesaheb of Akalcote is about 12. So I think that will be a very good match. I was really very sorry to hear of yesterday's accidents in the K. I. Sports. I have sent Rs. 100/- to Captain Pottinger for the men injured. I hope they will soon be well. I shall see you today before the sports and also during the sports.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati

No. 224

A. B. Olkar, a teacher from Sangli, conveys thanks to R. V. Sabnis, the Diwan of Kolhapur, for his appointment in the Rajaram High School, Kolhapur and says that he would soon take charge of his new post.

13th Oct. 05.
Sangli.

Respected Sir,

Learned of my appointment in the Rajaram High School. I thank you very much for the kindness you showed me.

I resigned my place here. I hope to come over there by Monday or Tuesday at the latest.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/- A. B. Olkar.

No. 229

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati expresses his satisfaction to H. H. Maharaja Sayajirao Gaikwad of Baroda for the keen interest taken by him in the upliftment of Kshatriya Maratha Community and shows readiness to do something in the matter.

Camp Rajputwadi
9th November, 1905.

My dear Maharajasaheb,

Kindly excuse me for the delay in replying to Your Highness' letter dated 19th ultimo. I have gone through the accompaniments and am very pleased to see the very keen interest Your Highness has been taking in our Kshatriya Maratha Community. I quite agree with you that some steps must be taken to raise that class but there are many people on this side who would be most difficult to manage. However we must do our best to do something on the lines of your rules.

I am consulting my brother and getting up a Maratha meeting to consider the matter. Their Royal Highness' visit to your capital must keep Your Highness engaged and I am sure every thing will have passed all right.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

To

H. H. Maharaja of Gaikwad.

No. 231

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati congratulates Sir S. W. Edgerley of the Political Department, Bombay on his getting high honours from the Government.

New
16th November 1905

My dear Sir Steying William Edgerley

My telegram of yesterday may have reached you. I am following it up by a time and offer my most cordial congratulations to you for the high distinction which has been conferred upon you. I earnestly wish that you may long enjoy the high honour and be a recipient of higher honours wishing you long and happy life.

I remain
Yours very sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 233

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati conveys thanks to Col. W. B. Ferris, the Political Agent of Kolhapur, for his sound advice on Satara matters, very much appreciates the friendly relations of Col. Ferris with the members of the Royal Family and earnestly requests him to continue his interest in him (i. e. Shahu Chhatrapati) even after his retirement from service.

Camp Rajputwadi
28th November, 1905.

My dear Col. Ferris,

I just now send the remarks of the Satara Collector about the action recently taken here. Let me really very heartily thank you for the sound advice which you kindly gave me & the excellent result is no doubt due to it.

I know that you were always most friendly to my father & gave him the best advice. He always used to speak to me about it & you have been doing the same friendly service to me and I do not know how to thank you for it.

I hope that you will always continue your interest in me not only while you are here but even after you retire.

Yours very sincerely,
Sd/-Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 235

This is an urgent telegram sent by R. V. Sabnis, the Diwan of Kolhapur, to H. E. Lord Lamington, the Governor of Bombay, conveying sympathies for the illness of Lady Lamington and praying for her early recovery and return to India.

2-12-1905

Urgent telegram sent to
Lord Lamington on board P & O
on 2-12-05 at 3 P. M.

Extremely sorry for the grave anxiety to Your Excellency for Lady Lamington. Pray accept most cordial sympathies. Sincerely hope Her Ladyship will be all well & Your Excellency may soon return with Her Ladyship.

By order,
Sd/- R. V. Sabnis

No. 236

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati informs Mr. Mayne of Rajkot that he cannot spare any sum for the Rajkumar College at Rajkot due to conditions of famine in Kolhapur State.

Camp Rajputwadi
9th December 1905.

My dear Mr. Mayne,

Please excuse me for not replying to your letter earlier.

I should like very much to do some thing for the college but you know this being a famine year, I cannot spare any sum. So you will excuse me.

We are having very bad plague here and that has become a source of very great anxiety to me. I hope Rajcote is free from these curses.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/- Shahu Chhatrapati.

No. 238

H. H. Shahu Chhatrapati, in a letter to Balasaheb Patvardhan, Chief of Miraj, disapproves the changes made by Balasaheb in his letter of 10th December, 1905 and assures Balasaheb to consider any definite proposal in the matter sent through the proper channel.

Kolhapur
21st December, 1905.

My dear Balasaheb,

I have already acknowledged receipt of your letter dated 10th instant. With respect to the first para thereof I really cannot tax my memory with having said anything that might possibly be construed as lending colour to what is suggested therein. I am of course prepared to give my best consideration to any definite proposals that may be made to me in the matter through the proper channel and I am sorry it is impossible for me to say anything till then. This being so the question raised in the other paras of your letter do not arise at any rate for the present.

Regarding the concluding para of the note it seems you have not been able as yet to send a copy of it to the Political Agent.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/-Shahu Chhatrapati.

To

Meherban
Sir Gangadharrao Patvardhan,
Chief of Miraj.